

COST-EFFICIENT + HIGH-PERFORMING + CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITIES = NEW ROCHELLE SCHOOLS

Community Priorities Accomplished

Whether it was through the district's online survey of nearly 700 people in February or at one of the subsequent budget review sessions, the message from the community was heard loud and clear. The general factors of favorable class size and comprehensive program offerings at the secondary level were identified as their highest priorities. Despite a tough economic climate, a tax levy cap, and major declines in state aid, the proposed budget accomplishes both ends.

Programs Maintained

The proposed budget maintains instructional programs, including full-day kindergarten, a robust world languages program in kindergarten through 12th grade, the largest selection of AP (Advanced Placement) offerings in Westchester County, engaging enrichment programs including Kaleidoscope and magnet overlays, astronomy classes taught in a digitized planetarium, a wide range of performing and visual arts education (PAVE) opportunities, major athletic offerings at the middle and high schools for approximately 1,700 participants, and a broad selection of over 200 clubs and activities.

Accomplishments

- The largest number of high school students were inducted into the National Honor Society in March 2012
- Over 700 students graduated from New Rochelle High School in 2010-2011.
- Including the most recent year of 2010-2011, the district continues to be recognized by the New York State Education Department as a "district in good standing"
- Strengthened opportunities for parental involvement through Home Access Center, a web-based tool for parents/guardians (currently utilized by over 3,000 families) to obtain information about their child's attendance, progress reports, and report cards
- Meeting the challenges of the new NYS Common Core and elevated performance standards
- International and national recognition for instructional technology efforts

Cost-Efficient

Compared to all school districts in Westchester and Putnam Counties, New Rochelle has consistently been recognized as one of the most cost-efficient in total expenditures for per pupil spending by ranking 42nd out of 46 districts in the most recent report from 2010-2011.

Contingency

If the budget is voted down and the district operates under a contingency budget, \$3,877,773 would have to be removed from the proposed budget. This would result in the reduction of equipment, community use of buildings and grounds, certain student supplies, and additional staff positions, and reduction in many non-mandated expenses.

1.43%
= lowest budget to budget
increase in 12 years



The Proposed Budget Includes the Following Cost Reductions:

- The district's energy conservation plan will reduce energy expenses by more than \$300,000 each year
- Buildings & Grounds contractual services were reduced by \$100,000
- A reduction of \$60,000 was made in our overall transportation budget.
- \$100,000 of increased revenue was realized by applying for Medicaid-eligible transportation reimbursements
- The district continues to realize savings from last year's contract negotiations with FUSE that resulted in a salary freeze for the 2011-2012 school year and a savings of \$2 million



Preserving **OUR STANDARDS**

The proposed 2012-13 budget preserves our most valued programs and services. In fact, the proposed budget preserves not only the academic program, but extracurricular and co-curricular clubs and activities as well. Here is a list of some of the highlights of what this budget will preserve for 2012-13:

- **Current favorable class sizes**
- **Present course and program offerings**
- **Full athletic program**
- **All extracurricular and co-curricular activities**
- **All Advanced Placement (AP) courses**
- **All high school electives**
- **Music and art districtwide**
- **Foreign language districtwide**
- **Universal Pre-K at Barnard School**
- **Full-day Kindergarten**



WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET DOES NOT PASS?

If the proposed budget does not pass on May 15, the Board of Education has three options. It can resubmit the same budget for voter approval for a second time; it can submit a revised budget for voter approval; or it can vote to immediately adopt a contingency budget. If the budget does not pass on the second vote, the Board must adopt a contingency budget. Under the new state legislation, a contingency budget



means that districts must hold their tax levies to the same amount as the current school year - this means a 0% increase in the tax levy for 2012-13. For New Rochelle, a failed budget would mean:

- Loss of programs and further loss of staff
- Jeopardizing cultural, sports and after-school programs as well as community use of school buildings and grounds.
- No purchase of new equipment

The difference between the proposed budget and a contingency budget is \$3,877,773.

An Investment Paying Off...

- 96% of the Class of 2011 is continuing on to postsecondary education
- Members of the Class of 2012 were accepted to a variety of prestigious colleges/universities, including Harvard, Yale, Cooper Union, Duke, MIT, Johns Hopkins, Brown, and Dartmouth
- In the Class of 2011, two students were named National Merit Semifinalists and another eleven were honored as Commended Students
- Three seniors were honored as National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalists
- Three students were named National Achievement Program Outstanding Participants
- One senior was honored as a National Hispanic Recognition Program Finalist
- In 2011, more than 880 students tested in Advanced Placement exams in 26 different AP classes
- In 2011, 139 students were honored with Advanced Placement Scholar Awards by the National College Board

Questions & Answers

Q. What is the proposed budget increase and associated tax impact?

A. The proposed 2012-2013 school budget carries an expenditure increase of 1.43%. This translates to a projected tax rate increase of approximately 4.13%. The actual tax rate is determined in the fall when the city's tax roll is set.

Q. What outside factors have influenced this year's budget development process?

A. Major factors affecting the increase in the budget are state aid reductions of \$5.7 million, ending of federal stimulus money in the amount of \$1.8 million and ongoing increases to insurance premiums and pension contributions.

Q. What steps will the district take beyond this year that could

potentially result in future savings within the school budget?

A. The district has begun the process of reviewing potential shared services with the City of New Rochelle with the aim of reducing costs and improving services. In addition, the practice in New Rochelle has been to not specifically budget for tax certiorari payments. They are paid for through savings realized in the operating budget, use of tax certiorari reserves or bonding. The issue of specifically budgeting for these expenses is being given careful consideration.

Q. How does this year's budget compare to expenses from years prior to the difficult economic climate we are currently experiencing?

A. This year's proposed budget is

only 2% higher than four years ago.

Q. Does this year's budget fall within the newly imposed tax cap by the state?

A. Yes. As most residents are aware, the New York State legislature passed a "tax cap" law last June. While this law has commonly been referred to as the "2% tax cap," in fact this is not the case. Every district throughout the state was required to complete a worksheet to determine their maximum allowable property tax levy increase for 2012-13. This number is based on a calculation of several factors; therefore, for each district, the allowable tax cap may fall below or even higher than 2%. For New Rochelle, our maximum allowable tax levy cap, per New York State, was calculated at 2.13%.

Items on the Ballot on May 15, 2012

Voters will:

- Elect two members of the Board of Education to serve at-large, for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2017.
- Adopt an annual budget of the City School District of the City of New Rochelle for the fiscal year 2012-2013.
- Elect two members of the Board of Trustees of the New Rochelle Public Library to serve at-large, of which one vacancy will be filled for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2017, and the second vacancy will be filled for a two-year term (the unexpired portion of a vacated term) ending June 30, 2014. The successful candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be seated for the five-year term, and the successful candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will be seated for the two-year term.

- Adopt an annual budget of the New Rochelle Public Library for the fiscal year 2012-2013.

Budget Proposition

Resolved, that the general fund proposed budget of expenditures of the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, for the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$234,174,978 for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures be and hereby is approved and authorized to be submitted to the voters at the Annual School Election/Budget Vote, May 15, 2012; and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon taxable property located within the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources as provided by law.

Voting Information



Who Can Vote?

In order to vote in the Annual School Election/Budget Vote on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, one must be a) a citizen of the United States; and b) a resident of the City of New Rochelle for thirty days immediately preceding the day of the election; and c) 18 years of age on or before the day of the election; and either registered under the permanent Personal Registration with the Westchester County Board of Elections as of May 1, 2012, or registered with the New Rochelle School District at the Board of Education offices.

Where to Vote

Registered voters may vote only at their designated polling place. The location of your individual polling place is noted on the mailing panel above your name and address. If you have questions regarding registration or where to vote, please contact the Clerk and Secretary to the Board of Education, 576-4219.

Polling Places

The following is a list of school district polling places in their school district election districts. To verify your polling place, refer to the mailing label on the back cover of this newsletter, or you may contact the Board of Education at 576-4219. The Street Directory Guide will be posted on the district website at www.nred.org.

SED #1	Henry Barnard School 129 Barnard Road – Gymnasium	SED #7	Trinity Elementary School 180 Pelham Road – Gymnasium
SED #2	Columbus Elementary School 275 Washington Avenue – Gymnasium	SED #8	Albert Leonard Middle School 25 Gerada Lane – Auditorium Lobby
SED #3	George M. Davis, Jr. Elementary School 80 Iselin Drive – Gymnasium	SED #9	Daniel Webster Elementary School 95 Glenmore Drive – Gymnasium
SED #4	Jefferson Elementary School 131 Weyman Avenue – Gymnasium (Emmett Terrace Entrance)	SED #10	Isaac E. Young Middle School 270 Centre Avenue – Gymnasium
SED #5	Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center 95 Lincoln Avenue – Dining Hall	SED #11	Holy Name School Halligan Hall, Halligan Street
SED #6	New Rochelle High School 265 Clove Road – Auditorium Lobby (Clove Road Entrance)	SED #12	William B. Ward Elementary School 311 Broadfield Road – Cafeteria (Rear Entrance)
		SED #13	570 Fifth Avenue – Community Room

2012-2013 Budget by Category

	Administration	Program	Capital	Total
<i>Board & District Administration</i>				
Board of Education	\$300,444			\$300,444
Chief School Administrator	\$517,292			\$517,292
Finance	\$1,667,669			\$1,667,669
<i>Staff</i>				
Legal	\$146,667	\$146,667	\$146,666	\$440,000
Personnel	\$878,901			\$878,901
Records/Public Info	\$230,333			\$230,333
<i>Central Services</i>				
Operation of Plant			\$10,996,771	\$10,996,771
Maintenance of Plant			\$5,159,954	\$5,159,954
Central Printing	\$562,680			\$562,680
Central Data Processing	\$1,016,272			\$1,016,272
<i>Special Items</i>				
Insurance	\$1,062,800			\$1,062,800
School Board Association	\$26,510			\$26,510
Assessments	\$10,000		\$185,000	\$195,000
Refund on Property Tax				-
BOCES Admin. Expenses	\$615,063		\$290,038	\$905,101
<i>Instruction</i>				
Curriculum Development/Supervision	\$10,592,833			\$10,592,833
Teaching-Regular Schools		\$78,466,257		\$78,466,257
Special Education Pupils		\$23,254,267		\$23,254,267
Occupational Education & Special Schools		\$3,909,046		\$3,909,046
Instructional Media		\$5,701,605		\$5,701,605
Pupil Services		\$11,993,036		\$11,993,036
Pupil Transportation		\$12,357,380		\$12,357,380
Census		\$51,936		\$51,936
<i>Undistributed</i>				
NYS Employees' Retirement System	\$627,863	\$3,659,132	\$481,483	\$4,768,478
NYS Teachers' Retirement System	\$1,407,963	\$10,452,153		\$11,860,116
Social Security	\$1,265,703	\$7,644,890	\$648,444	\$9,559,038
Health Insurance	\$2,616,028	\$17,643,689	\$1,565,962	\$21,825,679
Welfare Fund/UI	\$313,274	\$2,334,461	\$254,725	\$2,902,460
Debt Service			\$10,212,120	\$10,212,120
Interfund Transfers		\$1,346,000	\$1,415,000	\$2,761,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$23,858,296	\$178,960,519	\$31,356,164	\$234,174,978

2012-2013 Revenues

Description	2011-12 Budget	2012-13 Proposed Budget	Budget Incr. (Decrease)	Budget-to-Budget % Change
Real Property Taxes	\$181,889,144	\$185,766,917	\$3,877,773	2.13%
Other Tax Items				
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$1,200,000	\$1,450,000	\$250,000	20.83%
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	\$400,000	\$900,000	\$500,000	125.00%
SUBTOTAL	\$1,600,000	\$2,350,000	\$750,000	46.88%
Utility Tax	\$3,600,000	\$3,700,000	\$100,000	2.78%
Continuing Education Tuition	\$225,000	\$150,000	(\$75,000)	-33.33%
Non-Resident (Foster) Tuition	\$400,000	\$300,000	(\$100,000)	-25.00%
Health Services for Other Districts	\$2,100,000	\$2,200,000	\$100,000	4.76%
Transportation for Other Districts	\$50,000	\$32,000	(\$18,000)	-36.00%
SUBTOTAL	\$2,775,000	\$2,682,000	(\$93,000)	-3.35%
Use of Money and Property				
Interest & Earnings	\$110,000	\$110,000	-	0.00%
Rental of Real Property	\$400,000	\$232,500	(\$167,500)	-41.88%
SUBTOTAL	\$510,000	\$342,500	(\$167,500)	-32.84%
Sales & Compensation for Loss				
Sale of Scrap & Excess Materials and Insurance Recoveries	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	0.00%
Miscellaneous				
Refund Prior Years' Expense – BOCES	\$500,000	\$450,000	(\$50,000)	-10.00%
Refund Prior Years' Expense – Other	\$800,000	\$800,000	-	0.00%
Other (E-Rate, Bus Tokens)	\$730,840	\$703,673	(\$27,167)	-3.72%
SUBTOTAL	\$2,030,840	\$1,953,673	(\$77,167)	-3.80%
State Aid				
Basic Formula/Foundation Aid	\$22,596,177	\$22,861,335	\$265,158	1.17%
High Tax Aid	\$663,963	\$663,963	-	0.00%
Public & Private Excess Cost Aid	\$1,421,780	\$1,485,128	\$63,348	4.46%
BOCES Service Aid	\$2,338,841	\$2,734,655	\$395,814	16.92%
Textbook Aid	\$746,603	\$746,603	-	0.00%
Software/Hardware Aid	\$276,011	\$273,067	(\$2,944)	-1.07%
Library Aid	\$87,153	\$87,153	-	0.00%
Transportation Aid	\$4,313,870	\$3,753,962	(\$559,908)	-12.98%
Building Aid	\$2,560,322	\$2,288,907	(\$271,415)	-10.60%
State Aid Reduction	(\$6,398,326)	(\$5,913,385)	\$484,941	-7.58%
State Supported Schools Tuition	\$314,000	\$798,500	\$484,500	154.30%
ARRA (American Resource Recovery)	\$1,834,536	-	(\$1,834,536)	-100.00%
SUBTOTAL	\$30,754,930	\$29,779,888	(\$975,042)	-3.17%
Other Financing Sources				
CPSE Excess Administrative Cost Refund	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$50,000	25.00%
NYSERS Amortization	\$1,162,484	-	(\$1,162,484)	-100.00%
Federal Aid – Medicaid Assistance	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	100.00%
Interfund Transfers	\$200,000	\$1,100,000	\$900,000	450.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	-	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	\$7,662,484	\$7,550,000	(\$112,484)	-1.47%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$230,872,398	\$234,174,978	\$3,302,580	1.43%

News Around Our Schools...



Jefferson Read Aloud

On March 30, Jefferson Elementary celebrated a milestone 10th annual Great Read Aloud. The event provided an opportunity for students to hear from special classroom readers throughout the morning, including members of the Board of Education, Superintendent Organisciak, administrators, and elected officials. Among this year's special guests were Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, retired New Rochelle Fire Commissioner Ray "Doc" Kiernan, and Westchester County Assistant District Attorney Susan Brownbill-Vega.



Ward 100th Day

Thanks to the hard work of the school's PTA, kindergarten students at Ward Elementary had the opportunity to enjoy a fun celebration of their 100th day of school on February 10.

Students were engaged throughout the day in fun and educational mathematical games using the theme of 100. As part of the festivities, children wore decorated headbands sporting a cutout of the number 100 and carried a special "100" shopping bag downstairs to a specially outfitted classroom that housed a number of math stations. All activities were associated with the number 100. To arrive at the classroom, students counted their way down the stairs by 10's. Once they got to 100, they had reached their destination.

News *Around* Our Schools...

District Realizes Efficiencies Through Energy Performance Contract

The City School District of New Rochelle recently began construction of an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) that will generate guaranteed reductions in the district's fuel and electric bills by more than 25%, in excess of \$300,000 each year.

The reductions in energy usage will be realized after the districtwide installation of specific energy conservation measures. Costs for the project will be \$6.3 million, but savings in three areas – energy, operations, and maintenance – are guaranteed to amount to at least \$12 million over the next 18 years. Also, the project will generate \$1.2 million in additional state aid.

Savings strategies include energy management system upgrades, variable frequency drives, demand control ventilation, premium efficiency motors, computer power management, weatherization, boiler replacements, rooftop unit replacement, steam trap repair/replacement, and more. New energy-efficient HVAC units were recently installed on the roof of Davis Elementary (pictured at right).

At the beginning of the process, under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent John Quinn, the district retained the services of ECG Engineering, LLC, a firm that specializes in EPC engineering, design, and management, to provide expert technical guidance throughout the entire initiative. Honeywell was ultimately selected to build the project and guarantee the energy savings.



The end result is a project that will provide districtwide upgrades of plant and facilities, a significant reduction in energy consumption, and an annual net positive cash flow that will help advance the district, despite these challenging economic times.

In addition to significantly reducing the district's carbon footprint, the project has an educational component as well. This project will provide real life solutions intended to spark discussions among students, parents, and staff both in the classroom and at home.

The project is expected to continue through early fall 2012.

News Around Our Schools...

ALMS Goes to China

This year's spring recess was extra special for a group of twenty New Rochelle students. Eleven students from Albert Leonard Middle School and nine students from New Rochelle High School departed NY on April 3 for a ten-day trip to China. On the itinerary were the cities of Shanghai, Suzhou and Beijing. The students were accompanied on the trip by Rodney Arthur, Assistant Principal of Albert Leonard Middle School, Ying Huang, a teacher at Albert Leonard, and Lumin Huang, a teacher at New Rochelle High School.

Mr. Arthur sent daily missives about their travels via e-mail to parents, administrators, and teachers back in New Rochelle. It was agreed by all (and shared in Mr. Arthur's last e-mail) that seeing the Great Wall had the most profound impact on everyone. The students were blown away by its sheer magnitude, and all twenty of them made an attempt at climbing the wall up to its highest point. Other highlights of the trip included visits to a jade factory, the Ming Tombs, and the Olympic Village in Beijing from the 2008 games.

The students stayed with host families during the trip, and the families of the students who went to China for this trip are being asked to consider acting as host families for a contingent of Chinese students who will visit New Rochelle in October. This excursion to China was made possible by the ongoing exchange program between the City School District of New Rochelle and several Chinese schools, including Jian Ping Middle School in Shanghai.



High School Achievement

On March 28, the New Rochelle High School chapter of the National Honor Society inducted its largest group ever with 137 students. This is a true testament to the high achievement of our students.

College acceptances are beginning to roll in for our students. A brief preliminary list includes the following:

Amherst	Columbia (4)	Harvard (3)	Williams
Barnard	Cornell (7)	Middlebury (2)	Yale (3)
Boston College (9)	Dartmouth (4)	Notre Dame	

Seniors Julia Schwarz and Ben Ackerman competed in the Upstate NY Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Albany on March 19, 2012. This is one of the most prestigious forums for young scientists in the country. Thirty-five of the top research students from across the state competed. Julia and Ben had qualified for this competition by winning the Westchester Area competition.

Julia and Ben presented their work to a panel of scientist judges in the Physical Sciences category. Congratulations are further extended to Ben for winning a scholarship award for Excellence in the Field of Chemistry.

Congratulations to Mariah Bigaud and Laura-Anne Philip Robinson for winning both of this year's Invest in Success scholarships from Manhattanville College. The scholarships cover full tuition and room and board for four years, provided that the student maintains a minimum 3.0 grade point average, completes 30 hours each semester in Manhattanville's Duchesne Center programs, and remains in good social standing.

Congratulations to AJ Barbaria and Ben Helfand who attended the three-day Students Inside Albany Conference, beginning on March 25. Both were chosen and sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle based on the strength of their essays about the importance of understanding state government.



News Around Our Schools...

Tech Awards

The district's technology department is the recent recipient of three major awards. The City School District of New Rochelle is the winner of this year's Pioneer Award from the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center. This coveted award is also being given to Dr. Christine Coleman, the district's Director of Technology. The awards presentation recognizes teachers, administrators, and districts who are innovative users of technology in their schools. New Rochelle won these awards based on the success of putting a mobile individualized instructional system in place for over 1,300 students, as represented by the mobile Learning on the Go! initiative. Pioneer Awards will be given out at an awards ceremony on May 18.

Learning on the Go! also received national and international acclaim, as the City School District of New Rochelle was awarded the third-place SIGOL Online



Learning Award, which is given out by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). This award "recognizes innovative educators worldwide for their leadership and creativity in providing e-learning opportunities for elementary through university students." New Rochelle was beaten only by Deakins University in Australia and the University of Colorado at Boulder. The SIGOL award will be presented during ISTE's annual conference in late June.

SCIENCE EXPO

Earlier this year, the districtwide Kaleidoscope program held its Science Expo at Daniel Webster Magnet School. Students created projects that explored fun and interesting questions using the scientific method. Among the questions posed by the young scientists were:

- 1) Do certain types of yellow cheese melt faster than others?
- 2) In what liquid will chalk dissolve the fastest?
- 3) Are animals more likely to eat a white, blue, or orange colored pumpkin?
- 4) Do certain color M&Ms melt faster than others?

Inspiration for this year's Expo came in part from the following quote from George Washington Carver:

"I know of nothing more inspiring than that of making discoveries for one's self."



City School District of New Rochelle

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School Board Election & Budget Vote May 15

City School District of New Rochelle Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for the 2011-2012 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2012-2013 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2012-2013 School Year*
Total budgeted amount	\$230,872,398	\$234,174,978	\$230,297,205
Increase/decrease for the 2012-2013 school year		\$3,302,580	(\$575,193)
Percentage increase/decrease in each proposed budget		1.43%	(0.25%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		3.20%	
School Tax Levy Limit		\$179,824,001	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy (without permissible exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit)		\$179,824,001	\$181,889,144
Total Permissible Exclusions		\$5,942,916	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy (including permissible exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit)	\$181,889,144	\$185,766,917	\$181,889,144
Administrative component	\$23,289,813	\$23,858,296	\$23,231,789
Program component	\$174,770,252	\$178,960,519	\$175,741,507
Capital component	\$32,812,334	\$31,356,164	\$31,323,909

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2012-2013 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. Proposed budget is reduced by equipment, community use of buildings and grounds, some transportation, and certain student supplies.

	Budget Proposed for the 2012-2013 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$1,915.81

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2012-2013 by the qualified voters of the New Rochelle City School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at the polling places listed on page five (5) in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.