

HUNTINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 1500
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743-0700
www.hufsd.edu

Dear Huntington Resident:

In this brochure we present the proposed budget for the 2011-2012 school year. This year has presented unprecedented challenges to building an affordable plan to support public education. With reductions in state aid and the expiration of federal funds used to restore jobs, coupled with increased health care costs and required payments into state retirement systems for district employees, we had to take a hard look at all programs K through 12 to determine how to best build a budget that will support the outstanding educational program expected, while respecting sensitivities to the ever increasing tax burden shouldered by our community. This has been no easy task. We commend the work of our administrators who began work on this budget in November and with guidance from the Board of Education continued refining it until adoption on April 11. Throughout this process they have taken a detailed look at how our programs are administered, evaluated student performance and made data-driven decisions focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our instructional practices.

In spite of these economic constraints, we continue to offer the outstanding educational program expected by our community. This includes a complete set of Regents, Honors and Advanced Placement courses. This budget also provides for college counseling services to assist students and parents and help them identify and apply for various sources of financial aid. At the elementary level it funds the SEARCH and Math Olympiad enrichment programs, as well as a wide array of special education offerings, all without increasing class size guidelines at any instructional level.

In addition to the core curriculum, the budget supports a comprehensive program of art, music and physical education instruction. It also provides funds for band, orchestra, chorus, marching band, student drama club productions, science fairs and the district art show. Funding is also included for interscholastic athletic teams at the high school and middle school and extra-curricular clubs for grades 6-12. It includes monies to purchase laptop computer carts for each of the four primary schools, allowing teachers to integrate networked computers into their regular lesson plans.

This budget protects our taxpayers' investment by providing money to purchase tools and supplies needed to maintain our eight buildings. It allows authorized community groups to continue using our buildings and fields for games, practices, meetings and performances.

Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure and for understanding our commitment to excellence in education. Most importantly, thank you for voting on Tuesday, May 17.

Sincerely,

Bill Dwyer

Bill Dwyer
President, Board of Education

Voter Information

Election Day:

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Huntington High School
Oakwood & McKay Roads
Huntington, New York

Board of Education:

Residents will have an opportunity to elect two members to the Huntington Board of Education on Election Day, Tuesday, May 17. The individuals will serve from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

Eligibility:

- U.S. citizen.
- 18 years of age or older.
- Resident of Huntington School District for at least 30 days.
- Registered to vote in a general election or with the school district.

Absentee Ballots:

Applications for absentee ballots may be applied for at the District Clerk's office at the Administrative Offices, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or up to the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17 for them to be counted in the 2011 election and budget vote.

Inspection of Budget:

The public may inspect a copy of the proposed budget on the district website (www.hufsd.edu), the District Clerk's office (District Office, 50 Tower Street) or at any school building between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on school days beginning May 2, 2011.

Questions: Call the District Clerk at 673-2126

Important Capital Project Proposition on the Ballot

Protecting the investment taxpayers have made over the years in our school facilities requires constant vigilance. In order to keep our buildings and grounds well maintained, safe and efficient, school trustees have placed an important capital project proposition on the ballot.

Instead of resorting to expensive borrowing, the Huntington Board of Education is asking residents on May 17 to approve the release of funds held in the district's Building Improvement Fund. In May 2008, voters established the fund, also commonly referred to as the Capital Reserve Fund, to finance renovation and reconstruction projects.

The proposed projects include the replacement of in-ground oil storage tanks at Flower Hill and Jefferson primary schools and Woodhull Intermediate School. Architects estimate it will cost \$215,000 to replace each of the 10,000 gallon tanks with new 8,000 gallon units. The current tanks are original to each respective building. Flower Hill opened in 1954, Jefferson came on line in 1962 and Woodhull opened in January 1967.

The capital reserve fund proposition will also include \$39,000 to finish a set of projects funded by the state's EXCEL program. These new monies are needed as a result of change orders necessitated by unanticipated costs sustained during the completion of the earlier approved projects.

If voters support release of the funds, taxes will not increase since the monies are already in place. No new revenues will be required. The funds represent dollars already provided to the district by taxpayers that weren't needed to pay for regular school operations because of tight fiscal management and economizing. The source of the funding is the annual transfer of surplus monies from the district's general fund.

Your Vote Counts on Tuesday, May 17

Vote at Huntington High School 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sample Ballot

On Election Day voters will be asked to vote on Proposition No. 1 to fund school district operations from July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York be authorized to expend \$109,037,301, the amount set forth in the proposed budget and to accumulate the balance proposed in the said budget during the school year beginning July 1, 2011, and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

Residents will also be asked to vote on Proposition No. 2 to expend monies that already exist in the current Building Improvement Fund for a variety of projects in district buildings. Passage of this proposition will not result in an increase in taxes:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will be authorized to expend from the Building Improvement Fund, established by the voters of the district at the annual district meeting held May 20, 2008, an amount not to exceed \$215,000 for fuel oil tank replacement at Flower Hill Primary School, \$215,000 for fuel oil tank replacement at Jefferson Primary School, \$215,000 for fuel oil tank replacement at Woodhull Intermediate School and \$39,000 for the balance of EXCEL projects district wide.



Copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection in each school building, on the district website at www.hufsd.edu, at the central administrative offices located at 50 Tower Street in Huntington Station and at the Main Street and New York Avenue branches of the Huntington Public Library. Call 673-2111 for more information or to request a copy.



The Huntington School District is a melting pot that mirrors our country, with students and teachers of every race, creed and ethnic background. It is in this atmosphere that our young people are challenged academically, artistically, musically and athletically and where they grow socially and culturally. Lasting friendships are frequently forged. New experiences are enjoyed and personal horizons are expanded. Our schools reflect the community and are a model of brotherhood and understanding. Our diversity makes us stronger.

Huntington School District

2011-'12 Proposed Budget

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1657"

Description	Approved Budget 2010-'11	Proposed Budget 2011-'12	Amount Change
General Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Education • Central Administration • Buildings Operation and Maintenance 	\$10,148,319	\$10,023,531	(\$124,788)
Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision • Curriculum • Salaries • BOCES 	\$61,309,758	\$58,482,590	(\$2,827,168)
Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public, private and parochial school 	\$8,765,965	\$8,975,008	\$209,043
Employee Benefits	\$25,436,302	\$28,765,440	\$3,329,138
Debt Service/ Inter-fund Transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest/Principal on bonds • Capital • Special Aid • TAN Borrowing 	\$3,126,195	\$2,790,732	(\$335,463)
Grand Total	\$108,786,539	\$109,037,301	\$250,762
Budget Increase		0.23%	

The district is committed to economizing wherever possible. During the development of this proposed budget, extensive reductions in spending totaling more than \$5.7 million were made. Despite these efforts, the district expects significant increases for mandated retirement system costs (\$2.035 million) and employee health insurance (\$1.65 million). The district will continue exercising tight fiscal management and cost-cutting throughout the 2011-12 budget year.

Revenues

Description	2010-'11	2011-'12	Amount Change
State Aid	\$12,125,052	\$10,918,014	(\$1,207,038)
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$2,766,100	\$1,866,100	(\$900,000)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,915,000	\$1,995,000	\$80,000
Property Taxes	\$91,980,387	\$94,258,187	\$2,277,800
Grand Total	\$108,786,539	\$109,037,301	\$250,762

Estimated Tax Rate to Fund the Budget

Description	2010-'11	2011-'12
Estimated tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation for school district	\$200.83	\$207.16
Estimated percentage of increase (for school district taxes only)		3.15%
Projected increase per household based on average home assessment for school district		\$253.20 Before the STAR program
Total Assessed Value (tentative for 2011-2012)	\$45,800,187	\$45,500,187

The state fiscal crisis has resulted in a reduction of more than \$1.2 million in state aid to the Huntington School District. Coupled with the loss of \$1.425 million in federal stimulus funds the district was allotted over the past two years, dramatic increases in health insurance premiums and in payroll assessments for the state retirement systems and a declining property tax base and the district has faced the "perfect storm."

To meet these fiscal challenges, the district has made across-the-board reductions, limiting the year-to-year increase in spending to just 0.23 percent or about \$250,000. This has required many painful choices. Despite these reductions, the district will continue to offer students the classes, programs and activities that have long been cherished by the community and that make our schools special.

As residents go into the voting booth on Tuesday, May 17, they can be confident this budget does not rely on fiscal "smoke and mirrors," unsound gimmicks or unrealistic assumptions. The plan is sound and will contribute to the district's tradition of financial stability and educational excellence.

2011-12 Huntington School Budget Highlights

- The proposed school budget continues Huntington's 354 year commitment to providing a first rate education for the young people of our community by improving our exceptionally strong academic program for 4,500 students in grades K-12.
- Provides for an extensive array of Regents, Honors and Advanced Placement courses in all academic areas and funds academic intervention services (AIS) for students who need additional assistance in meeting New York State graduation requirements.
- Allocates \$616,354 for new textbooks and workbooks, \$50,014 for new library books, \$90,000 for computer software and \$199,208 for instructional equipment, including computers.
- Funds 63 athletic teams for high school and middle school students, 93 coaching positions and a full-time athletic trainer.
- Provides a full program of wholesome, adult supervised after-school extracurricular activities, including dozens of clubs for students.
- Supports comprehensive art, music and physical education experiences, including band, orchestra, chorus, marching band, music ensembles and specialized art courses.
- Funds student drama club productions, newspapers, concerts, science fairs and the district art show.
- Supports a strong program of special education classes and services for students.
- Funds the purchase of 32 wireless laptop computers on a portable cart in each of the four primary schools, allowing teachers to integrate technology directly into their classroom lessons.
- Continues the SEARCH and Math Olympiad programs for academically talented fifth and sixth graders.
- Supports the district's commitment to the high school science research program.
- Provides for a half-day kindergarten program



Awesome Teenagers: Huntington High School students collected an enormous amount of food and related items-enough to stuff a full-size school bus during the "Stuff the Bus" campaign. The bus, which was donated for the day by Huntington Coach Corp., was used to deliver the goods to organizations committed to helping the homeless and hungry in the community.

Huntington School Board Candidates

Jim Cahill



Jim Cahill and his wife, Donna have two children attending Flower Hill School. He grew up in Huntington, attending Flower Hill, Finley Junior High and Huntington High School, graduating in 1982.

A practicing attorney in the areas of estate, guardianship and elder law, he worked as court attorney at the Appellate Division Second Department. He has served on the American Lung Association's local chapter board, as a delegate to a State Bar Association committee and as a cooperative corporation president.

Vice-chair of the Brooklyn Bar Association's elder law section, Mr. Cahill has taught at New York University as an adjunct instructor. He speaks to attorney associations and writes on legal topics.

Bill Dwyer



Bill Dwyer is completing his first term on the Huntington School Board. Trustees elected him as the board's president for the past three years. He has lived in Huntington with his wife Karen for 15 years. The couple's three sons attend district schools.

Mr. Dwyer earned Bachelor degrees at Providence College and Washington University and a Master's at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

An account executive for a Hauppauge software company, Mr. Dwyer is a member of St. Patrick's Church and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He is a director in the Huntington Village Lacrosse Club, which serves over 700 boys and girls of the district in grades K-8.

This year's transportation budget reflects the costs associated with transporting 5,304 eligible students, including 4,286 to the seven buildings in the Huntington School District, 85 special education students to 23 additional sites and 933 students to 27 parochial and private schools on Long Island as required by law. The district currently contracts for 56 large buses and 77 vans to transport students.

Huntington School Board Candidates

Jennifer Hebert



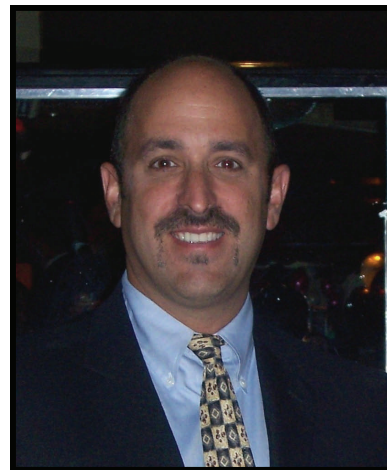
Jennifer Hebert earned Bachelor and Master degrees at Tufts University in Boston. She has lived with her husband, Jamie in Huntington for 14 years. The couple has three children, ages 7, 10 and 13 enrolled in district schools.

Mrs. Hebert has worked as a kindergarten teacher in Massachusetts and is currently a pre-school teacher at St. John's Nursery School in Huntington.

Now in her second term as Jefferson School PTA co-president, Mrs. Hebert previously served as the Woodhull Intermediate School PTA treasurer. She has devoted countless hours as a PTA volunteer.

A regular attendee of School Board meetings, Mrs. Hebert has served on the district's Long Range Planning Committee.

Adam Spector



Adam Spector is a 20-year resident of Huntington with his wife, Meredith. They have two children in the Huntington School District. He received a Bachelor's degree in Management from Binghamton University.

Mr. Spector's work experience includes corporate technology management in New York's financial district and the development and management of a technology consultant firm.

An active participant in the district, Mr. Spector serves on the Shared Decision Making teams at Woodhull Intermediate School and J. Taylor Finley Middle School and has a long resume of PTA executive leadership.

Mr. Spector regularly attends and speaks at School Board meetings. He has coached and volunteered in the community and schools.

Visit the Huntington School District's website at www.hufsd.edu for the latest news and information about our schools and students.

Huntington School Board Candidates

Susan Tully



Susan Tully has resided in the Huntington School District for over 14 years and is a long-term resident of the Town of Huntington.

A graduate of Walt Whitman High School, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting at C.W. Post College.

As a senior financial executive and CPA, Ms. Tully has 30 years of finance and accounting experience working with multinational and entrepreneurial companies.

After 10 years at Ernst & Young, Ms. Tully moved onto senior financial positions at Universal Music Group.

Ms. Tully has served as chief financial officer at Palm Entertainment, Ryko Corp and, most recently, BASE Entertainment.

School Board Overview

Huntington School Board members are elected to three-year terms by the residents of the community. They serve without any form of compensation and oversee every aspect of district operations. Trustees are responsible for the district's educational program, as well as its personnel, financial affairs, buildings and properties.

The Huntington School Board is legally empowered to establish the policies and regulations it believes are needed to fulfill its responsibilities under state education law to provide for the education of school-age residents. Trustees appoint all instructional and support staff members, as well as the administrators who conduct the district's day-to-day operations.

Trustees meet regularly in executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters and in public to handle the district's educational and financial affairs and to receive pertinent reports from central office, building level and department administrators.

An agenda is published prior to each meeting and posted on the district website. Residents are given an opportunity to address trustees during a portion of each public meeting. The minutes of each meeting, as kept by the district clerk, are later posted on the district website.

The proposed budget also provides transportation, textbooks and related services as required by New York State law to about 975 Huntington School District residents who are students attending private and parochial schools.

School Budget Questions and Answers

How was the proposed budget developed?

School administrators and teachers, after extensive planning and study, submitted budget requests in the fall. These requests were thoroughly reviewed and reduced wherever possible and a draft budget was developed and submitted to the School Board. Trustees examined the budget line-by-line, debating priorities, eliminating positions, discussing goals and finalizing the proposed budget that is outlined in this brochure. The School Board held a series of well-attended public meetings during which dozens of residents and employees spoke.

Has the district done anything to trim spending and costs to hold down taxes?

During the budget process the administration and school board examined every single position and program. Efforts have been made to reduce costs, especially those not associated with classroom instruction. More than \$5.7 million in reductions were made to the budget, including the elimination of 96.4 full-time equivalent positions. Budget requests were reduced and all areas of spending were subject to economizing. Strategic reductions were made to supply and equipment codes.

What will happen if the proposed school budget does not pass?

If voters defeat the budget on May 17, the Huntington Board of Education will meet and decide what will happen next. There could be a second vote, either for the same budget or an alternate one. The school board could develop and adopt a contingency or austerity budget and implement such a budget for the 2011-12 school year. Should the district operate under an austerity budget, certain items, including the purchase of equipment, cannot be included. This year, the difference between the proposed budget and an austerity budget amounts to \$199,208. If a second budget vote is held and that budget fails, too, trustees must adopt an austerity budget for the next school year.

Why does the budget go up every year?

It costs money to run a school system and these costs keep rising. Salaries, benefits, supplies, equipment and bus transportation, all contribute to higher expenses. The district is faced with the loss of \$1.2 million in state aid and \$1.425 million in federal funds. The state has also increased the district's assessment for employee pensions by \$2.035 million. This loss of revenue and these new expenses come at a time when the district must still provide the courses and programs necessary to meet state graduation and academic proficiency requirements.

Has the public been allowed to provide input throughout the budget process?

All School Board budget development meetings have been open to the public. At each session taxpayers have been given the opportunity to offer their opinions, suggestions, comments and criticisms. The views of residents as expressed at School Board meetings have been carefully considered and used in developing and refining the proposed budget. As elected representatives, School Board members are always available to listen to the public during meetings, on the telephone or via e-mail.

How does this budget improve the district's classroom education?

The district must operate within the confines of its financial resources. These are tough economic times. Despite millions of dollars in spending reductions, this budget contains the teachers and support staff needed to help students meet all New York State requirements. Every school will be provided with the books, supplies and materials our academic program demands. This budget also contains the funds for a cutting-edge technology initiative that will provide 32 wireless laptop computers on a portable cart in each of our four primary school buildings. This will allow teachers to integrate technology directly into their classroom lessons.

Focus on Huntington's Top Students

Carolyn Fante



Huntington senior Carolyn Fante is valedictorian of the Class of 2011. She will give an address at the school's 150th commencement exercises on June 24.

The scholar has been active in Huntington's extracurricular activities and athletic programs. Ms. Fante has been involved with the school newspaper and spent two years as a managing editor before becoming co-editor-in-chief this year.

Ms. Fante is president of the National Honor Society, vice-president of the Spanish Honor Society and a member of several other honor societies. She participates in AWOD (A World of Difference) and Grandfriends and has enjoyed being involved with the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative.

"My four years at Huntington High School have been a great experience," Ms. Fante said. "I was new to the Huntington School District in ninth grade after moving here from Brooklyn. My parents always supported me and encouraged me to get involved in the school here and in the past four years, I have made some amazing friends and had some really terrific teachers. This high school has provided me with so many opportunities and I really enjoyed my experience here."

Michelle Byrne



Michelle Byrne's four year run of excellence has culminated in her being named salutatorian of Huntington High School's Class of 2011. An inquisitive, good-natured teenager, she is respected by classmates and teenagers.

"It came as a slight shock because there are so many intelligent, hardworking kids in this grade," Ms. Byrne said about learning she was the class salutatorian. The teenager has built an enviable academic record and has been inducted in the National Honor Society as well as numerous other honor societies. She's the president of the Spanish Honor society this year.

The scholar has challenged herself by enrolling in many Advanced Placement courses. A series of art classes have been among her favorites "because they gave me a break from my hectic academic schedule and allowed me to express myself through many different mediums," Ms. Byrne said.

As she looks forward to college, Ms. Byrne has mixed emotions. "I will be sorry to see my high school experience come to a close, but I am excited for the future and whatever it has in store for me," the senior said.

A campaign to save energy dollars continues to provide impressive results. Between February 2001 - February 2011 the district avoided \$3,330,840 in energy costs through a variety of conservation efforts. The drive has not impacted classroom instruction. After school hours, weekends and vacation periods have been targeted and energy awareness efforts have raised the consciousness of all employees. At Huntington High School alone, \$1,598,737 in costs were averted.

Huntington Union Free School District
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***Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction***

School Budget Vote and Trustee Election
Tuesday, May 17, 2011
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
at Huntington High School

****ECRWSS****
To: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Huntington Union Free School District

The Faces of Huntington's Schools



Our Mission: Recognizing the strengths of our district's traditions, its history of community support, the diversity of our population and our commitment to educational excellence, the mission of the Huntington Union Free School District is to educate students by effectively teaching an enriched body of knowledge through the active participation of all students, building upon their unique talents and abilities to produce creative, self-assured, responsible citizens who are capable of critical thought and action.