

# Mayfield

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Spending decreases in 2010-11 budget

*Tax levy increase is 2.85%; residents go to the polls on May 18*

Mayfield Central School District residents will vote May 18 on a proposed \$16,989,363 budget for the 2010-11 school year.

"This has been a challenging budget development season for school districts across New York State," said Superintendent Paul Williamsen. "Still, I believe our Board of Education was able to walk the fine line between offering an outstanding education for our students and addressing the concerns of taxpayers during this difficult economy."

### Spending is down nearly \$9,000

The proposed budget is \$8,967 less than the current school year budget, resulting in a spending decrease of 0.05%. If the proposed budget is passed by voters, the district's tax levy will increase by approximately 2.85%.

The tax levy is the total amount of money that a school district must raise through school property taxes. The district will set the school tax rate, which is the amount of tax residents pay per \$1,000 of home value, in August. *(For estimated school tax rates, see page 2.)*

### Effects of declining revenue

Despite a budget-to-budget spending decrease, the Board of Education is proposing to increase the tax levy because other revenue sources are declining. Depending on the final outcome of the state budget negotiations, Mayfield could lose up



*On last year's New York State math proficiency exams, 95% of Mayfield students in grades 3-8 scored at Level II or better, and 81% scored at Level III or IV, Level IV being the highest.*

## BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday, May 18, 2010**

**Polls are open noon to 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium lobby.**

## PUBLIC HEARING

**Tuesday, May 11, 2010 • 7 p.m.  
High School Upper Library**

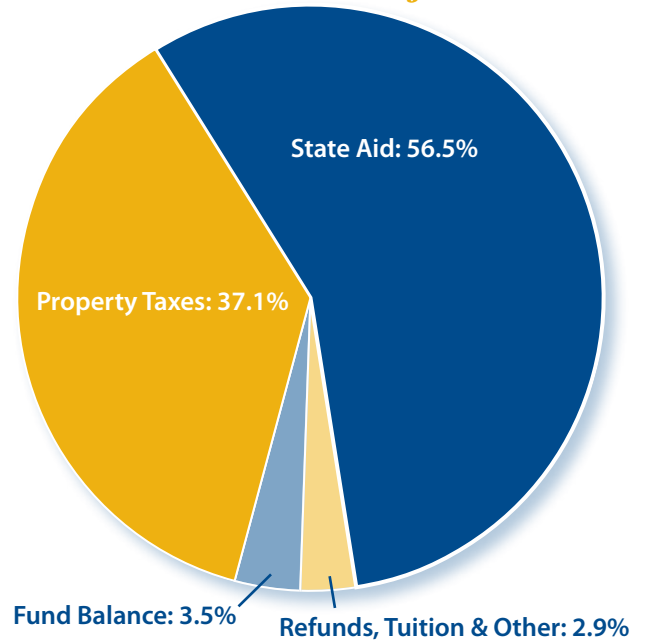
to \$1,020,113 in state aid next year. The school district is also waiting for a resolution to the revenue problem of its second-largest taxpayer, the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District (HRBRRD), which still owes Mayfield \$354,000 in school taxes for 2009-10. Combined, the decrease in state aid and the late tax payment amount to an 8.1% loss in revenue from 2009-10.

The proposed spending plan also reflects the elimination of 9.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, which will result in two layoffs. *(For more on the proposed cuts, see page 3.)* The district also expects to reduce spending on utilities, heating fuel and diesel fuel/gasoline.

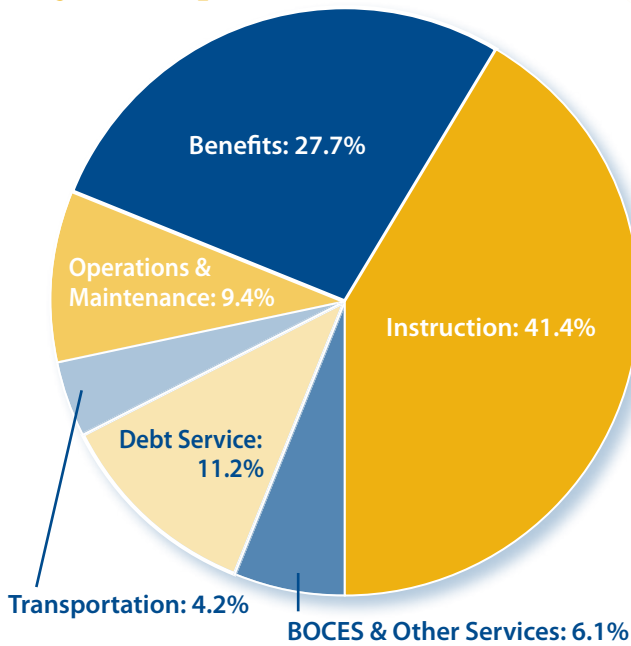
## Where the money comes from...

REVENUES	ACTUAL 2009-10	PROPOSED 2010-11	\$ CHANGE '09-10 to '10-11	% CHANGE '09-10 to '10-11
State & Federal Aid	\$9,803,630	\$9,596,724	-\$206,906	-2.11%
Property Taxes	\$6,126,401	\$6,300,889	\$174,488	2.85%
Refunds, Tuition & Other	\$428,400	\$491,750	\$63,350	14.79%
Fund Balance	\$639,899	\$600,000	-\$39,899	-6.24%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$16,998,330</b>	<b>\$16,989,363</b>	<b>-\$8,967</b>	<b>-0.05%</b>

## Projected Revenues



## Projected Expenditures



## ...and where it is spent

EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL 2009-10	PROPOSED 2010-11	\$ CHANGE '09-10 to '10-11	% CHANGE '09-10 to '10-11
Instruction	\$7,150,002	\$7,040,964	-\$109,038	-1.53%
Employee Benefits	\$4,031,752	\$4,704,025	\$672,273	16.67%
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,616,361	\$1,591,132	-\$25,229	-1.56%
Pupil Transportation	\$864,910	\$717,234	-\$147,676	-17.07%
Debt Service	\$1,921,000	\$1,897,358	-\$23,642	-1.23%
BOCES & Other Services	\$1,414,305	\$1,038,650	-\$375,655	-26.56%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$16,998,330</b>	<b>\$16,989,363</b>	<b>-\$8,967</b>	<b>-0.05%</b>

## Qq Aa How would the proposed budget affect my taxes?

Actual tax rates are set in August and are based on final assessment figures as provided by towns and equalization rates for each town as provided by the state Office of Real Property Services. However, the school district has estimated the true value tax rate for towns within the district. The true value tax rate is the estimated tax rate that a property owner with full value assessment and an equalization rate of 1.0 would pay per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The tax rates and increases for next year that are shown in the chart are estimates only. The estimated tax rates and increases DO NOT reflect any STAR or other tax exemptions that may reduce individuals' school tax bills. For more tax information, including information about the STAR program, visit [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com).

### Estimated Tax Rates

per \$1,000 of assessed value

	2009-10 FINAL	2010-11 ESTIMATED	DOLLAR INCREASE	PERCENT INCREASE
Mayfield	\$19.74	\$20.31	\$0.57	2.85%
Northampton	\$21.88	\$22.52	\$0.64	2.93%
Johnstown	\$18.12	\$18.65	\$0.53	2.92%
Broadalbin	\$15.20	\$15.64	\$0.44	2.90%

**Qq** What cuts were made in the proposed budget, and how will those cuts affect the educational program at Mayfield?

**Aa** Because enrollment in the district is declining, the proposed budget cuts should have a minimal impact on the educational program at Mayfield. The 9.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) reduction in staff should not result in a significant increase in class size or decrease in student services. The staff cuts will result in two layoffs; the other cuts are from attrition (retirements) or will result in a reduction in time. The proposed budget calls for the following staff reductions:

- **Elementary classroom teachers (2.0 FTE)**  
*Class sizes in grades K-4 will still be 20 or fewer students, and class sizes in grades 5-6 will have 23 or fewer students.*
- **Elementary special education teachers (1.5 FTE)**  
*The special education program at the elementary school is being restructured next year because the district has fewer students who require these services. Mayfield has improved its academic intervention services (AIS) to the point where it is classifying fewer students under special education – a positive step for both the students and the district.*
- **Secondary social studies teacher (0.5 FTE)**
- **Secondary business teacher (0.5 FTE)**  
*Both of these formerly full-time positions will be reduced to half time.*
- **Secondary English teacher (1.0 FTE)**  
*The elimination of this position is a direct result of the Board of Education eliminating Mayfield's GED program. Prior to the board's decision, no students were enrolled in the program for the 2010-11 school year.*
- **Secondary math teacher (1.0 FTE)**
- **K-12 music teacher (1.0 FTE)**
- **School psychologist (1.0 FTE)**
- **Teacher aide (1.0 FTE)**  
*All of these reductions were made partially because of declining enrollment.*

**Qq** If the proposed budget calls for a spending decrease, why does it also call for a tax levy increase?

**Aa** Depending on the outcome of state budget negotiations, Mayfield could lose more than \$1 million in anticipated state aid next year. Mayfield is also still waiting to receive payment for the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District's 2009-10 school taxes, which are worth \$354,000. In addition to the declining revenue, costs for contractual obligations – especially health insurance for employees and retirees – are rising.

District leaders proposed significant cuts to the school budget in an effort to offset the lost revenue and rising costs. If the district had not made those cuts, the resulting budget would have required a double-digit tax levy increase.

**Qq** Could any of the eliminated positions be restored if more revenue becomes available?

**Aa** Under current law, no. Once a budget is approved by the voters (or once a contingency budget is adopted), a Board of Education cannot spend more money than the amount approved by voters even if, for example, more state aid becomes available.

**Qq** What would happen if the proposed budget was defeated by voters?

**Aa** If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the Board of Education will have three options: Present the same budget to voters a second time, present a revised budget to voters or adopt a contingency budget.

If the budget is defeated a second time, the board must adopt a contingency budget. This year, contingency budgets must be capped at a 0% increase – a standard that Mayfield's proposed budget already meets. However, because of the contingency rules, the district would still be required to cut another \$44,675 in expenses. The tax levy increase associated with a contingency budget would be 2.1%.

**Qq** What is the return on taxpayers' investment in Mayfield schools?

**Aa** Even though it has one of the lowest per pupil spending rates in the Capital Region, Mayfield is committed to providing a high-quality education. Here are some of the ways Mayfield is meeting that goal:

### Academic Achievements

- Mayfield has one of the top graduation rates in the HFM BOCES region. In 2008-09, Mayfield's graduation rate was 84%; the state average was 72%.
- Using their new Leveled Literacy Intervention program, elementary reading teachers have seen significant improvement. For instance, first-grade students began the year at reading level A (pre-reading) and are currently working in level I – a jump of eight levels in less than a year.

### Art & Music Achievements

- Senior Joe Anagnostopoulos was selected to the All-State Jazz Ensemble, becoming the first musician in school history to perform at the All-State level.
- Six works by high school students were accepted into the FMCC Regional High School Art Show.

### Athletic Achievements

- The girls volleyball team won the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) and Section 2 championships, and was the regional runner-up.
- Six teams received NYSPHSAA Team Scholar-Athlete Awards.

### Community Service

- Elementary students raised more than \$1,000 to support the American Red Cross's relief efforts in Haiti.
- Mayfield students, K-12, have generated support for several local and national organizations, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Ronald McDonald House and World Wildlife Fund.

For answers to more of your budget-related questions, visit the Budget Central page at [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com).

## Board of Education

Ernest Clapper, President  
Janis Frisch, Vice President  
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**Dated material:** Important for district residents. Please send any address additions or corrections to the superintendent's office at MCS.



## Also on the ballot...

### One Board of Education seat

Voters will elect one Board of Education member to a five-year term. The seat is currently held by Tush Nikollaj, who is seeking re-election. Frederick Castiglione is also a candidate for the seat. He is seeking his first term on the board.

### Bus purchase

Residents will vote on a proposition that would allow Mayfield to purchase one 66-passenger bus using funds from its bus purchase reserve account. If approved, the bus purchase would have no impact on the school tax levy.

### Track re-surfacing

Residents will also vote on a proposition that would allow Mayfield to use funds from its capital reserve account to re-surface the track at the elementary school. If approved, the cost of the repairs would have no impact on the school tax levy.

### Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the May 18 election, be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen of the United States and be registered to vote with the school district.

### How do I register to vote?

Residents who are not already on the school register may register to vote 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., May 3-7 and 10-14 at the District Office. Residents may also register to vote on May 18 in the lobby of the high school gymnasium.

### Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Residents who will not be in the area on May 18 may apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office.

If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 17.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 18.

### When and where is the vote?

The school budget vote will take place from noon to 8 p.m., on Tuesday, May 18 in the lobby of the high school gymnasium.

### What exactly am I voting on?

Residents are voting on a proposed \$16,989,363 budget for the 2010-11 school year, which calls for a 0.05% decrease in spending from the 2009-10 school year.

Residents are also voting to fill one seat on the Mayfield Board of Education, as well as on propositions to purchase a school bus and to re-surface the track at the elementary school. The district would use reserve funds to pay for both propositions.

Detailed copies of the proposed budget are available at the District Office. Additional information about the budget is available on the district's Web site, [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com).

Nomination forms for Mayfield's Wall of Dedication can be picked up in the District Office or download it at [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com) throughout the month of May. This is your chance to honor a Mayfield resident or alumnus who has made a significant contribution to our schools.