

Mayfield

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Spending decreases in 2011-12 budget

Tax levy increase is 4.9%; residents go to the polls on May 17

Mayfield Central School District residents will vote May 17 on a proposed \$16,656,235 budget for the 2011-12 school year.

"This has been one of the most challenging budget development seasons we have ever experienced, and we know that is a common theme for school districts across New York State," said Superintendent Paul Williamsen. "Still, our Board of Education worked hard to maintain the integrity of our academic programs as well as to address the concerns of taxpayers during this difficult economy."

Spending down almost \$340,000

The proposed budget is \$333,128 less than the current school year budget, resulting in a spending decrease of about 2%. If the proposed budget is passed by voters, the district's tax levy will increase by approximately 4.9%. 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. Mayfield will lose



Last year, 37% of Mayfield High School graduates received Advanced Regents diplomas. Also, 73% of all graduates in 2010 went on to two, or four-year colleges.

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 • 7 p.m.
High School Upper Library

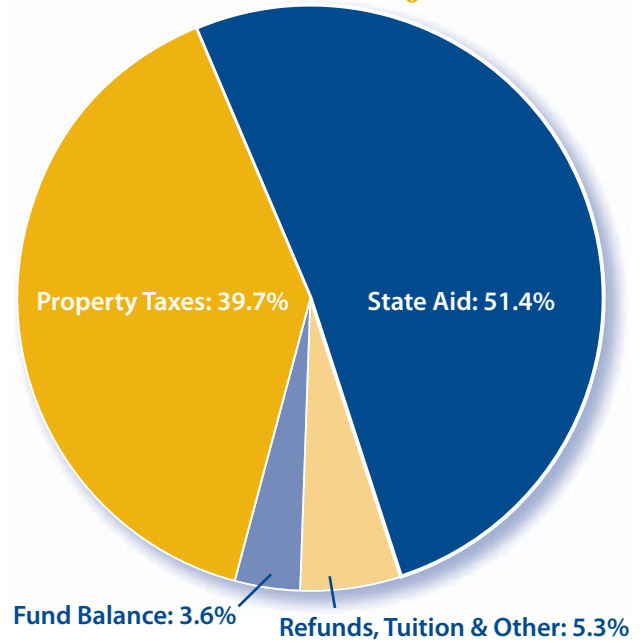
\$1,022,280 in state aid next year. The school district is also waiting for a resolution to the revenue problem of its second-largest taxpayer, the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District (HRBRRD), which owes Mayfield \$738,589 in school taxes, interest and penalties. Combined, the decrease in state aid and late tax payments amount to \$1,760,869.

The proposed spending plan also reflects the elimination of 21.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, which will result in 17.5 layoffs. *(For more on the proposed cuts, see page 3.)* The district also expects to reduce spending on utilities and fuel.

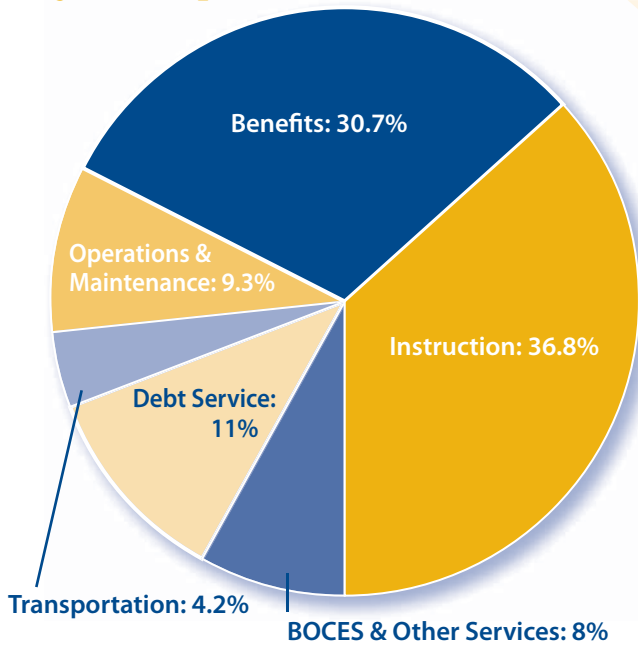
Where the money comes from...

REVENUES	ACTUAL 2010-11	PROPOSED 2011-12	\$ CHANGE '10-11 to '11-12	% CHANGE '10-11 to '11-12
State & Federal Aid	\$9,596,724	\$8,574,444	-\$1,022,280	-10.65%
Property Taxes	\$6,300,889	\$6,605,589	\$304,700	4.84%
Refunds, Tuition & Other	\$491,750	\$876,202	\$384,452	78.18%
Fund Balance	\$600,000	\$600,000	0	0%
Total Revenue	\$16,989,363	\$16,656,235	-\$333,128	-1.96%

Projected Revenues

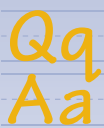


Projected Expenditures



...and where it is spent

EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL 2010-11	PROPOSED 2011-12	\$ CHANGE '10-11 to '11-12	% CHANGE '10-11 to '11-12
Instruction	\$6,833,879	\$6,130,215	-\$703,664	-10.29%
Employee Benefits	\$4,704,025	\$5,118,577	\$414,552	8.81%
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,591,132	\$1,541,609	-\$49,523	-3.11%
Pupil Transportation	\$717,234	\$691,558	-\$25,676	-3.58%
Debt Service	\$1,897,358	\$1,833,907	-\$63,451	-3.34%
BOCES & Other Services	\$1,245,735	\$1,340,369	\$94,634	7.59%
Total Expenditures	\$16,989,363	\$16,656,235	-\$333,128	-1.96%



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 increase in Northampton is due to a correction made as a result of a clerical error two years ago.

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.

Estimated Tax Rates

per \$1,000 of assessed value

	2010-11 FINAL	2011-12 ESTIMATED	DOLLAR INCREASE	PERCENT INCREASE
Mayfield	\$20.11	\$21.07	\$0.96	4.7%
Northampton	\$20.57	\$22.69	\$2.12	10.4%
Johnstown	\$19.28	\$20.20	\$0.92	4.8%
Broadalbin	\$15.81	\$16.39	\$0.58	3.7%

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

Aa The proposed budget includes the reduction of 21.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff positions. Due to declining enrollment, the proposed budget cuts should not result in a significant increase in class size. Also, Mayfield will still offer all the state mandated courses students need to graduate. The staff cuts will result in 17.5 layoffs; four positions will be eliminated through attrition. The proposed budget calls for the following staff reductions:

- **Elementary classroom teachers (2.0 FTE)**
Class sizes in grades K-3 will still be 25 or fewer students, and class sizes in grades 5-6 will have 24 or fewer students.
- **Elementary reading teachers (1.5 FTE)**
One full-time position will be eliminated due to retirement.
- **Elementary special education teacher (0.5 FTE)**
The special education program at the elementary school is being restructured next year because the district has fewer students who require these services.
- **Secondary special education teacher (1.0 FTE)**
- **Secondary social studies teacher (1.0 FTE)**
- **Secondary English teacher (1.0 FTE)**
The elimination of this position is a direct result of the Board of Education eliminating Mayfield's PM school program.
- **Secondary science teacher (0.5 FTE)**
- **K-12 music, art and library teachers (3.0 FTE)**
- **School guidance counselor (0.5 FTE)**
- **K-12 speech, occupational and physical therapists (1.5 FTE)**
- **Foreign language (0.5 FTE)**
- **Pre-K section (0.5 FTE)**
- **Supervisor of buildings and grounds (1.0 FTE)**
- **K-12 teacher aides (7.0 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 Mayfield lost more than 10 percent of its state aid from 2010-11, and this comes in the face of rising costs and declining revenues. Healthcare costs, employee salaries and state-mandated employer retirement contributions account for a \$1.5 million increase for the 2011-12 budget. Mayfield is also still waiting to receive payment for two years worth of school taxes from the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District. As of right now, HRBRRD owes Mayfield \$738,589. School 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 cuts, the resulting budget would have required a double-digit tax levy increase.

Qq What happened to the education jobs money?

Aa The state of New York didn't release the federal education funds to districts until the beginning of the 2010-11 fiscal year. Mayfield has \$462,000 left over from that which will be applied to the 2011-12 budget. This is the last of any anticipated federal monies.

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 1.92% 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 \$41,641 in expenses. A contingency budget would carry a tax levy increase of 4.25%.

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 2009-10, Mayfield's graduation rate was 85%; the state average was 72%. Of those graduates, 79% received Regents diplomas.
- In 2010, about 68 percent of seventh grade students scored at level 3 on the State assessment tests, and all 75 students who took the U.S. History and Government Regents exam passed. Of those, 83% performed at a mastery level.

Art & Music Achievements

- Seniors Alex Husain and Lindsay Bradt have their artwork on display at the National Racing Museum.
- Three works by high school students were accepted into the Mimosa Gallery in Saratoga Springs.

Athletic Achievements

- The boys cross country running team won the Western Athletic Conference and Section 2 Championship.
- Sophomore Connor Phillips will play soccer for UK Elite in Italy this summer.

Community Service

- Elementary students raised more than \$8,500 for the American Heart Association.
- Mayfield students, K-12, have generated support for several local and national organizations including the Habitat for Humanity and Ronald McDonald House.

For answers to more of your budget-related questions, visit the Budget and Finance page at www.mayfieldk12.com.

Board of Education

Robert Suits, President
Janis Frisch, Vice President
Teresa Davis
Ernest Clapper
Tush Nikollaj

Superintendent Paul Williamsen

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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 Robert Suits, who is seeking re-election. Kevin Capobianco and Frederick Castiglione are also candidates for the seat. Each is seeking his first term on the board.

Student Board Member

Residents will vote on a proposition that would authorize Mayfield to allow a high school student to serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Education.

Nomination forms for Mayfield's Wall of Dedication can be picked up in the District Office, or downloaded at 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.

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 17 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 2-6 and 9-13 at the District Office. Residents may also register to vote on May 17 in the lobby of the high school gymnasium.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Residents who will not be in the area on May 17 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 17.

When and where is the vote?

The school budget vote will take place from noon to 8 p.m., on Tuesday, May 17 in the lobby of the high school gymnasium.

What exactly am I voting on?

Residents are voting on a proposed \$16,656,235 budget for the 2011-12 school year, which calls for a 1.96% decrease in spending from the 2010-11 school year.

Residents are also voting to fill one seat on the Mayfield Board of Education, as well as a proposition to allow a high school student to serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Education.

Detailed copies of the proposed budget are available at the District Office. Additional information about the budget is available on the district's website, www.mayfieldk12.com.

What are the changes to the STAR Program?

Beginning this year, legislation dictates that taxpayers who earn more than \$500,000 annually will no longer receive the Basic STAR exemption. Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, maximum STAR savings can't exceed more than 2% of the prior year maximum savings. For more information on the STAR program, call the assessor's office in your town.