



THE MADISON

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Madison Public Schools

Spring 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Madison Resident:

The proposed 2010-2011 Madison School District budget has been shaped to reflect our enduring commitment to educational excellence, the continuing economic downturn, and unprecedented funding challenges from Trenton. Just a few short weeks ago the district was informed that it would lose 100 percent of its operating aid and 15 percent of its debt service aid for 2010-2011. As a consequence of these developments, the district has been compelled to make deep reductions in staff and programs. The result is a proposed operating budget for 2010-2011 that actually decreases by a half-million dollars from the current year.



With the budget going to vote on April 20, developments at the local and state level continue to evolve. We anticipate receiving guidance shortly on the receipt of an estimated \$300,000 resulting from a required employee contribution to health benefits. Additionally, the Madison Board of Education has requested that all of its staff bargaining units accept a pay freeze for 2010-2011. Should these developments materialize, the school district will use the savings to restore programs and positions, and rebuild a limited surplus deeply depleted by appropriations for tax relief.

Our schools continue to garner state and national recognition, while at the same time the district has worked diligently to restrain budget growth. As reported in the most recent New Jersey School Report Card, Madison's cost per pupil is \$325 below the state average. Our three-year rate of growth in per pupil costs is the second lowest in Morris County.

The proposed budget maintains present class size commitments, and supports the acquisition of new text materials necessary to deliver our comprehensive curriculum to students of all ages. This year's proposed budget also features a second question, asking voters to support an additional \$198,000 to restore the Junior School athletic program and the Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts position.

Complete information on the budget is available at www.madisonpublicschools.org, or by contacting the district's Business Office at 973-593-3105. We encourage you to get to the polls and cast an informed vote on Tuesday, April 20. The polls will be open from 2:00 to 9:00 PM.

Richard Noonan
Superintendent of Schools
Madison Public Schools

Lisa Ellis
Board President
Madison Board of Education

POLLING PLACES

Residents can vote on the school budget between 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. on April 20, 2010

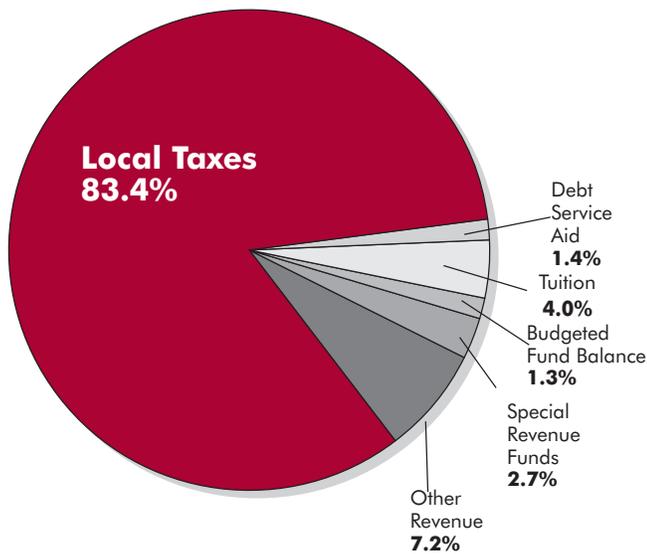
Districts	Location	Districts	Location
6, 11, 14	Madison Housing Authority Community Room	2, 4, 10	North Star Club, 95 North Street (formerly CAS) Front Entrance
5, 7, 8, 12	Madison Public Library Chase Room	1, 3, 9, 13	New Life Fellowship (Former Baptist Church) 203 Green Avenue

MADISON BOARD OF EDUCATION 2010-11 BUDGET SUMMARY

BUDGET CATEGORY	REVISED BUDGET 2009-2010	PROPOSED BUDGET 2010-2011	INCREASE OR DECREASE (+/-)
Regular Programs – Instruction	\$ 12,492,772	\$ 12,200,583	-292,189
Special Education – Instruction	2,256,268	2,084,539	-171,729
Other Instructional Programs	521,469	609,972	+88,503
Student Activities	1,046,780	971,494	-75,286
Tuition	1,242,096	1,154,728	-87,368
School/General Administration	2,961,018	2,885,185	-75,833
Other Support Services	4,198,913	3,886,451	-312,462
Maintenance/Transportation	4,497,315	4,500,257	+2,942
Employee Benefits	5,572,644	6,135,944	+563,300
Capital Outlay	145,367	0	-145,367
Special Revenue Fund	1,001,724	1,038,681	+36,957
Debt Service	3,093,493	3,096,977	+3,484
TOTALS	\$39,029,859	\$38,564,811	-465,048
Sale of Green Village Road School		\$7,000,000	
TOTAL		\$45,564,811	

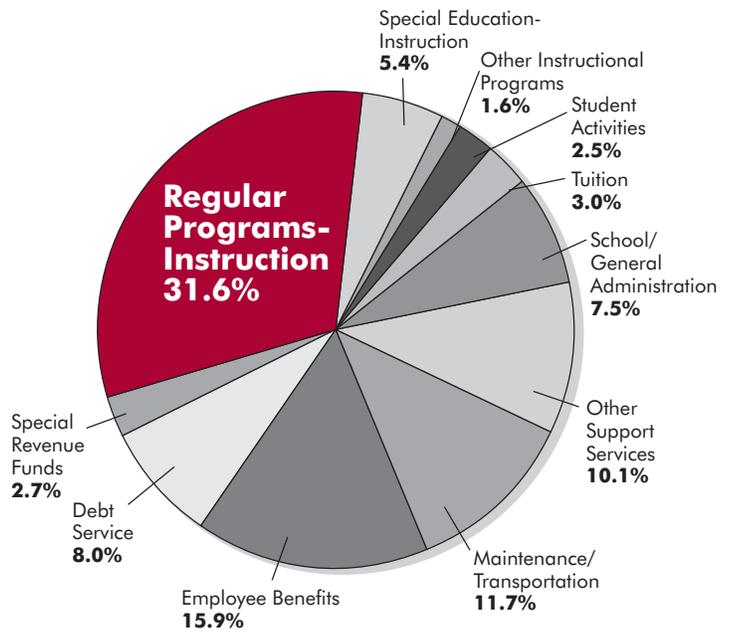
REVENUES

Where the Money Comes From



EXPENDITURES

How the Money Is Spent



General Fund Tax Levy	General Fund Tax Rate	General Fund Tax Impact
2009-10 \$30,908,200	2009-10 1.467	The tax impact will be \$69 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. This translates to \$284 for the average property in Madison, assessed at \$411,000.
2010-11 \$32,144,528	2010-11 1.531	
Increase \$1,236,328 [4.00%]	Increase064 [4.33%]	

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Sam Cavaliere

Sam Cavaliere is seeking election to the Board of Education for the first time. He is a nine-year resident of Madison, has a daughter in the first grade at Central Avenue School and a second daughter attending preschool at the Madison Cooperative Nursery School. Mr. Cavaliere possesses a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from James Madison University, where he graduated in 1993. He is currently employed as a Unified Communications Solution Specialist at Microsoft Corporation, where he has worked for the last 14 years. He is also a volunteer firefighter for the Madison Fire Department.

"Like all parents, I take the education of my children seriously and look forward to working with the other members of the board on the various challenges facing the school district. I continue to be impressed with the hard work of our teachers, the administration, and most importantly the achievements of the students."

Patrick Rowe

Patrick Rowe is seeking re-election to the Board of Education. Pat and his wife Kim have lived in Madison since 1990. They have two children, Courtney and Bryan, who currently attend Madison High School. Mr. Rowe, who is employed by the EMC Corporation as a Global Strategic Account Manager, received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Farleigh Dickinson University. He has served as the Board's vice president since 2005 and its finance committee chairman since he joined the board in 2004.

"I have been proud of the progress we've made on many fronts the past six years, and it has been a privilege to serve the community as a member of the board. Although we face many new challenges, I believe we can and will maintain Madison's status as one of the premier school districts in the state."

SECOND BUDGET QUESTION

In addition to the regular advertised budget, the Board of Education will seek approval from the district's voters to raise an additional \$198,693 for the operation of the Junior School's interscholastic sports program and the funding of the position of District Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts. Both items were cut from the base budget. The taxes, if raised, will result in an annual increase in the district's tax levy.

SALE OF GVR SCHOOL INCORPORATED INTO BUDGET

1. Projecting sale revenue of \$7 Million
2. Proceeds cannot support operating budget
3. Planned expenditure of sale revenue as follows:
 - \$5,400,000 maintenance and capital projects
 - \$1,000,000 contribution to Madison Rec Center
 - \$600,000 in technology purchasing

MADISON SCHOOLS IN THE NEWS

- Madison High School was recognized as one of "America's Best High Schools" by US News and World Report and News-week for second year in a row.
- Madison High School had the third highest average SAT scores among Morris County high schools for the second consecutive year.
- MHS continues to be at the forefront of passing rates for Advanced Placement tests among Morris County High Schools.
- 74 percent of the district's state test proficiency and advanced proficiency scores at grades 3-11 in 2009 were above the average for our district factor group.
- Madison High School has had two top 10 Intel Science Search finalists in the last three years.
- Madison art students continue to earn top honors in regional art shows and competitions, and six Madison High School vocalists were selected this year for All-State Chorus.
- Madison High School athletic teams have won numerous conference championships this year, as well as two county championships and one state championship.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANTS NOW OFFERED DISTRICT-WIDE

The MHS Educational Foundation is coming soon to a school near you! Beginning this July, the Foundation, under its new name, "The Madison Education Foundation" (MEF), will expand its focus to include all five schools in the district. This change will allow all Madison teachers to apply for grants that enrich classroom education. This decision by the Foundation couldn't come at a better time. With reduced state funding and a tough economy, money for the school budget is tight. And while MEF grants alone will not solve these fiscal challenges, they will give teachers a chance to "think outside the budget" and apply for funding that brings exciting new programs and technology into all schools.

Since 2003, the Foundation has served as a valuable resource for Madison High School. It has funded programs that would have otherwise been left on the cutting room floor at budget time. It has provided teachers with a rapid turnaround to try something new. And it has supported pilot programs that can be expanded through longer term budget planning.

Examples of teacher-driven projects funded by the Foundation include laptop computers, poetry and theater workshops, a kiln, and special history exhibits. These grants and others have provided MHS with invaluable tools to well prepare its students for life after high school.

Foundation trustees look forward to expanding their focus to include the three elementary schools and the junior school. To prepare for the transition, Foundation trustees have been meeting with administrators, teachers, parents, PTO's and other members of the community to get feedback on this important change. "It's energizing to see the community's enthusiasm for spreading the Foundation's positive impact at the high school to the entire district," said Foundation Board President Anne Hargrave.



"Science students are having better hands-on lab experiences thanks to equipment purchased with Foundation grants. Giving every teacher in the district opportunities to apply for Foundation grants is a big win for all."

- Stan Pazden, Science Department Supervisor.

The Foundation is jump-starting its K-12 funding pool with the money raised during its annual 5k race on May 2nd. The trustees expect this fundraiser will generate enough money to fund innovative grants district-wide beginning this fall.

To learn more about the Foundation and plans for K-12, visit www.madisonpublicschools.org/mhsef and/or contact mhsef@netscape.net.

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Dr. Barbara Sargent,
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
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Board of Education
Lisa Ellis, President
Patrick Rowe, Vice President
George Martin
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