

Kittatinny Regional School District Proposed 2011-12 Budget

NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Well here we are again sending out our annual budget newsletter like we have many years before, but this year there have been many changes at Kittatinny as a result of the economic crisis in the nation and the severe cuts in state aid by our Dept. of Education and our Governor last year. Understanding this, WE HAVE SURVIVED and we will continue to move forward to offer comprehensive and affordable educational opportunities for the children of the Kittatinny Community. I do want to thank the community members of the Kittatinny Region for their tremendous support during these very tight budget times and we hope to change the tide this year with a successful budget vote. We intend to get back on our winning streak and hope to never again experience the unfortunate programmatic losses in the future as we have over the past two years.

We have and will continue to recognize that this economic downturn has affected many of our residents and in turn we must present a budget that is fair, balanced and affordable to our community. This year we must abide by the state imposed hard cap of 2% on our tax levy. This amount allows us to have a budget increase of approximately \$250,000 for the 2011-12 budget year. Overall, this increase is a 1.365% increase on our budget from 2010-11 school year. This year we did receive an additional \$200,000 in state aid, but as you may have read in the papers, we will only realize approximately \$110,000 of the \$200,000 as our local vocational school, Sussex County Technical School, is intending to impose a tuition fee to all districts in the 2011-12 school year. We are anticipating that this tuition fee will cost the taxpayers of our district an additional \$90,000 of tax levy. We feel that this unfortunate tuition fee could not have come at a worse time for public schools of Sussex County and we are fighting for our residents to get this tuition fee eliminated or at least reduced to lower the impact on our district and our taxpayers.

2011-12 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

A committee representing the faculty, administration, parents, and the board of education have chosen the 2011-12 Kittatinny Regional School District

Teacher of the Year—Mr. Andrew Van Orden. Mr. Van Orden graduated from Kittatinny in 1981. He then graduated with merit from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985 with a BS in Mathematics. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1985 to 1992. In 2000, he graduated from Montclair State with a Masters in Mathematics Education. He became a Kittatinny teacher in 1993.

When he's not in his classroom, Mr. Van Orden can be found hiking, biking, and cross country skiing. He and his wife Betsy also enjoy taking their three children (Tommy, Katie and Peter) to visit museums and historical places.

Congratulations Mr. Van Orden!



I AM VERY PROUD TO ANNOUNCE A SAVINGS OF ALMOST \$604,000 DUE TO EMPLOYEE GIVEBACKS THIS BUDGET YEAR!!

We are able to save almost a half million dollars (\$440,000) by changing our health benefits provider from Cigna (36 year relationship) to the School Employee Health Benefits Plan of NJ. This was only possible with the full support of all of our employees and employee unions (Administrators, Teacher, and Support Staff). In addition, the employees agree to give back almost \$165,000 both last year and again this year by contributing to their health benefits costs. Due to these savings and employee givebacks (**2 Yr. Total of \$765,000**), we are very pleased to announce that we will not be cutting additional athletics or activities this year and all academic programs will remain intact with a few programs going from full time to part-time. Kittatinny will continue to face tough budget times ahead.

This year we will be asking for our community to support a second question on our 5:30 p.m. Courtesy Busing Routes for students. This courtesy service will be a second question on the ballot in the amount of \$68,175 for the 2011-12 school year. Although we all feel this service is very important, we unfortunately could not include it in our 2011-12 regular budget to get to our 2% tax levy cap this year.

The KRHS Board of Education has dedicated itself to all children by establishing outstanding educational programs. We have worked diligently to create a budget that does not have a tremendous negative impact on the classroom and we have kept the promise to reduce spending in a manner that is least impactful on our students. We are now comfortable to present you as the taxpayers our newsletter outlining the proposed 2011-12 budget.

We truly appreciated your voter support over the past many years and we are hoping to get back to our winning ways. It has never been a more important time than this budget year to get out to the polls and vote. Thank you very much.

Craig M. Hutcheson
Superintendent

PROJECTED 2011-2012 SCHOOL BUDGET

	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>Change in Budget</u>
Total Operating Budget	19,608,118	19,618,356	10,238
Debt Repayment	<u>253,611</u>	<u>220,988</u>	(32,623)
Total Budget Including Debt Repayment	19,861,729	19,839,344	(22,385)
State Aid	5,384,618	5,585,311	200,693
Total Tax Levy with Debt Repayment	12,514,812	12,765,108	250,296 (2%)

Tax Levy breakdown for 2011-12 School Year

DISTRICT	% SHARE OF TAX LEVY	GENERAL FUND	DEBT REPAYMENT	TOTAL
Fredon	23.39	2,985,387	48,076	3,033,463
Hampton	37.14	4,740,541	76,340	4,816,881
Sandyston	13.85	1,768,358	28,477	1,796,836
Stillwater	25.62	3,270,822	52,673	3,323,494
Walpack	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	100	12,765,108	205,566*	12,970,674

*Debt Service tax levy differs from Debt Repayment due to the use of \$15,422 from the bond refinancing of 2009.

Tax Estimate

Per \$100,000 Assessed Valuation & Per Average Home Assessment

Factors that reduce or raise taxes in one community compared to another include increase or decrease in numbers of students, ratables, equalized valuation of municipality and State reported income of residents from the community in which they reside.

How does this budget affect local taxes?

Township	Average Home Assessment Per Township	Projected Tax Increase/ <Decrease> Per \$100,000 Assessment	Projected Tax Increase/ <Decrease> Average Home Assessment
Fredon	\$ 428,218	\$ 18.13	\$ 77.63
Hampton	154,261	21.34	32.92
Sandyston	252,563	22.19	56.04
Stillwater	123,500	37.55	46.37
Walpack	0	0	0

The KRHS district has five municipalities when combined equal 100%. This broken down among the five municipalities is called percent share. The percent share of ratables are calculated by the State for all regional school districts. The ratables are calculated by each county for each municipality. The best scenario for each municipality is to have a decrease in their percent share and an increase in ratables. This means that more tax dollars are available to pay for less tax liability. This is the situation in Stillwater this year. While the other Townships did not have this situation they produced different scenarios of percent share and ratable changes. Please call our business office if you have questions regarding this percent share explanation at 973-383-1800 x1540.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Ms. Sarah Brook is Kittatinny Regional School District's Scholar Athlete of the Year. Sara ranks third in the senior class. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Council. She has earned the Principal's Leadership Award and has been recognized by the Hampton Township Rotary as Student of the Month.



Ms. Brook volunteers for Peer Leadership, CrossAge Training, Character Education and the Science and Math Leagues. Sarah was named the Chairman for the National Honor Society's Senior Citizen Luncheon in recognition of her service and leadership skills.

On the playing field, Ms. Brook has earned eight varsity letters while playing three sports: soccer, basketball and softball. She was named captain of the girls varsity soccer team which garnered the NJAC Freedom Division

Championship. The team was also named Team of the Year by Mugs Media and the NJ Herald. For her efforts on the team, she was selected to an All Conference Honorable Mention. Sarah was also captain of the girls varsity basketball team. As a member of the girls varsity softball team, Sarah was selected Second Team All Conference.

The future Dr. Sarah Brook is planning a career in Physical Therapy with the ultimate goal of helping wounded soldiers returning from battle with their rehabilitation.



Congratulations & Best of Luck Sarah!

On March 25, 2011, Sarah was recognized at the annual United Way Scholar-Athlete Dinner with a 3rd place scholarship of \$1,000!

Shared Services

Did you know that we share services with the following entities:

- ⇒ **McKeown Elementary School** utilizes Kittatinny's Sewage Treatment Plant
- ⇒ Kittatinny is the Lead Education Agency for transportation services for the **Sandyston-Walpack School**
- ⇒ Kittatinny is the Lead Education Agency for transportation services for the **Stillwater Pre-School program**
- ⇒ Kittatinny is the Lead Education Agency for non-public transportation for the **Fredon, Hampton, Stillwater, and Sandyston-Walpack Schools**
- ⇒ Kittatinny is the Lead Education Agency for providing school lunches to the **Sandyston-Walpack School**
- ⇒ **McKeown School** is the Lead Education Agency for a curriculum coordinator for **Kittatinny Regional, Fredon, Stillwater and Sandyston-Walpack Schools**
- ⇒ Kittatinny participates in the School Alliance Insurance Fund (SAIF) with 151 other school districts through out the State of New Jersey.



2010-11 STUDENT & TEACHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ⇒ Kittatinny Scholar Athlete—Sarah Brook
- ⇒ Principal's Leadership Award—Sarah Brook
- ⇒ 3 Students scored over 700 on the SAT's
- ⇒ NJAC Freedom Division Champions—Girl's Tennis, Wrestling and Girl's Cross Country
- ⇒ 2011 National Merit Program Commended Student—Hailey Magee
- ⇒ Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Award—Kelly Gannon
- ⇒ Governor's School Applicants—Frank Mark—School of Engineering & Technology; Tyler Wilson—School of the Sciences
- ⇒ Mr. Matt Majka named Mugs Media Coach of the Year for Girl's Soccer
- ⇒ NJ Herald Boys Tennis Coach of the Year—Mr. Albert Paolucci
- ⇒ NJ Herald Girl's Track Coach of the Year—Ms. Melissa Untig
- ⇒ Teacher of the Year—Mr. Andrew Van Orden



Notice! Notice!

The U.S. EPA requires that the school annually notify all parents, teachers and other employees that Kittatinny's AHERA asbestos inspection and management plan is available for review in the Board of Education office located at the High School. In addition a six-month surveillance survey was completed in December. Kittatinny Regional is in full compliance with AHERA regulations.

THIS IS WHERE YOU VOTE

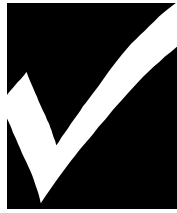
Fredon Twp. #1—#4
Fredon Civic Center

Hampton Twp. #1
Hampton Municipal Bldg.
Hampton Twp. #2
Hampton Community & Sr. Ctr.
Hampton Twp. #3
Balesville Congregation Church
Hampton Twp. #4
Hampton Commons Clubhouse

Stillwater Twp. #1
Stillwater Town Hall
Stillwater Twp. #2
Stillwater Courthouse
Stillwater Twp. #3
Stillwater Township School

Sandyston Twp.
Sandyston Municipal Bldg.

Walpack Twp.
Walpack Municipal Bldg.



REMEMBER TO VOTE
Wednesday, April 27, 2011
POLLS OPEN 2 PM to 9 PM

ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

You can request an absentee ballot if any of the following reasons for absence apply to you:

1. Nature and hours of employment
2. Permanent or total disability
3. Observance of a religious holiday
4. Resident attendance at school, college or university

You can request an application form for an absentee ballot from the Sussex County Clerk. The request must be received at least seven days prior to the election, or made in person to the County Clerk prior to 3:00 p.m. on the day before the election.

Apply to: Jeffrey Parrott, Sussex County Clerk
83 Spring Street, Suite #304, Newton, NJ 07860

CANDIDATES FOR KITTATINNY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Robert Greene*	Sandyston	*incumbent
James Hunt*	Fredon	
John Flora	Fredon	
David Ormesher*	Hampton	

KITTATINNY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
Board of Education
77 Halsey Road, Newton, NJ 07860

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