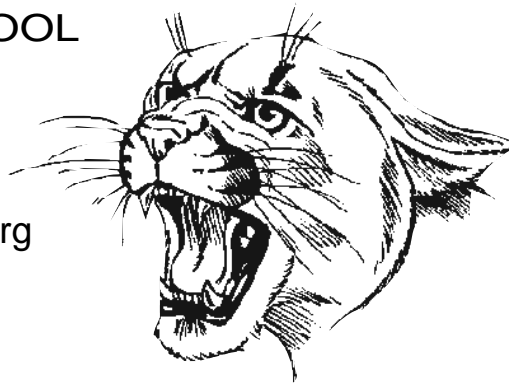


Budget Notice

103 Rt. 276, Champlain, NY 12919 • www.nccscougars.org



From the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

This has been a challenging budget season with the current economic climate in the nation. The Board of Education has worked diligently to construct a responsible budget. The proposed budget is a 2.4% increase over the current budget with a ZERO% increase to the tax levy.

We started the budget season with an uncertain state aid projection and a \$700,000 combined increase in health insurance and contractual salary increases. All areas of the budget have been closely scrutinized. Many areas have been reduced. Declining enrollment has been factored into the budget process.

Reductions include: elimination of four bus runs, a physical education teacher, lifeguard, driver education, business teacher and one elementary teacher. Some vacant positions will be filled with part time employees.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 18th at 6:30 P.M. in the high school auditorium.

Federal Stimulus Money

The state used almost all of the education stabilization aid from the federal government to restore proposed cuts in education funding. The federal stabilization aid did not give the district an increase. The federal money eliminated a proposed cut and kept state aid at the same level as last year.

The federal stimulus bill provided increases in some targeted programs. The two big increases are for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and for Title I services to disadvantaged students. It is important to understand that there are limitations on how these funds can be used. For the most part, they can only be used for services to the targeted students. There are “supplement not supplant” requirements. This means the money has to be used to improve or add on to existing services, and not replace state or local dollars that we have been using to pay for those services. In other words we can't use these targeted funds to reduce our local tax effort or to keep someone in a job that we previously paid for from state or local funds.

We can expect a great deal of scrutiny on how this federal aid is used. Many districts will be audited for compliance. The Obama Administration has promised that information on how every district used the money will be posted on a website. The district will proceed carefully in deciding how we use the federal aid and make sure we understand the rules and limitations.

Peter J. Turner
Superintendent of Schools

May 2009

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Cougar Tales is published by the NCCS Board of Education. Please direct questions to Peter J. Turner at 298-8242.

*Printed at Champlain Valley Educational Services
CVES Designer: Paula Piatt*

General Fund Appropriations

GENERAL SUPPORT	2008-09 Budget	2009-10 Budget
Board of Education	\$6,850	\$4,860
District Clerk	\$6,507	\$6,399
District Meeting	\$2,300	\$2,200
Central Administration	\$217,712	\$221,756
Business Administration	\$288,335	\$204,125
Auditing Services	\$20,603	\$22,743
District Treasurer	\$3,962	\$43,627
Tax Collection	\$10,616	\$10,366
Purchasing	\$4,604	\$4,894
Fiscal Agent Fees	\$4,100	\$5,500
Legal Services	\$30,500	\$30,500
Personnel	\$44,448	\$43,511
Records Management	\$2,185	\$2,213
Public Information	\$475	\$450
Operation & Maintenance	\$1,762,985	\$1,684,843
Central Storeroom	\$200	\$150
Central Printing & Mailing	\$27,303	\$31,064
Central Data Processing	\$6,502	\$6,402
Special Items	\$348,458	\$365,340
GENERAL SUPPORT TOTAL	\$2,788,645	\$2,690,943

“ We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt
32nd US President

INSTRUCTION	2008-09 Budget	2009-10 Budget
Curriculum Development	\$1,800	\$1,750
Supervision/Regular School	\$512,846	\$546,778
Supervision/Summer School	\$0	\$0
In-service training	\$32,920	\$31,997
Teaching/Regular School	\$6,803,843	\$6,369,650
Programs for Children with Handicapping Conditions	\$4,632,979	\$4,734,409
Occupational Education	\$685,146	\$717,178
Teaching/Special Education (Conitnuing Edu. & Summer School	\$26,120	\$25,620
School Library & Audio-Visual	173,506	\$172,865
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$441,792	\$498,212
Attendance / Regular School	\$7,277	\$6,762
Guidance / Regular School	\$315,217	\$318,998
Health Services/Regular School	\$170,432	\$175,666
Psychological Svcs./Regular School	\$11,055	\$19,038
Co-Curricular Activities/Regular School	\$30,715	\$22,703
Interscholastic Activities/Regular School	\$175,435	\$175,372
INSTRUCTION SUMMARY	\$14,021,083	\$13,816,998
DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION		
District Transportation Services	\$1,533,524	\$1,407,703
Garage Building	\$72,100	\$70,500
DISTRICT TRANS. SUMMARY	\$1,605,624	\$1,478,203
OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Census	\$1,772	\$0
COMMUNITY SVCS. SUMMARY	\$1,772	\$0
UNDISTRIBUTED		
Employee Benefits	\$6,339,946	\$6,797,698
Debt Service: Principal	\$1,578,852	\$1,979,809
Debt Service: Interest	\$938,073	\$1,219,831
Interfund Transfers	\$100,850	\$100,000
UNDISTRIBUTED SUMMARY	\$9,002,721	\$10,097,338
TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS SUMMARY	\$27,419,845	\$28,083,482

General Fund Revenues

	<u>2008-2009 Revenues</u>	<u>2009-2010 Estimated</u>
<u>Real Property Tax Items</u>	\$ 270,482	\$ 250,000
Includes other payments in lieu of taxes, interest and penalties on real property.		
<u>Charges For Services</u>	\$ 510,125	\$ 198,600
Includes non-resident tuition, adult education, summer school tuition, student fees and charges such as swimming and student insurance, admissions from games, health services for St. Mary's and other districts, Youth Commission services for summer swim program and bus rental, and Vermont student tuition.		
<u>Use of Money & Property</u>	\$ 290,000	\$ 125,000
Includes interest and earnings, rental of hay field, rental of equipment to individuals, use of building charges and interest on accrued Capital Projects.		
<u>Sale of Property And Compensation For Loss</u>	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,000
Includes sale of scrap, equipment, buses, instructional supplies; and includes insurance recoveries and other compensation for loss--lost books, etc.		
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	\$ 230,000	\$ 180,000
Includes refunds of prior years expenditures, plus gifts and donations.		
<u>Interfund Transfers</u>	\$ 10,000	\$ 0
<u>State Sources (NYS)</u>	\$ 15,661,652	\$ 16,502,396
Includes State Aid--Basic Formula, BOCES Aid, Textbook Aid, Computer Software & Hardware Aid, Library Loan Program Aid and Building Aid/Reconstruction Projects.		
<u>Federal Sources</u>	\$ 50,000	\$ 30,000
Medicaid Reimbursement		
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES OTHER THAN REAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 17,029,359	\$ 17,292,996
FUND BALANCE JUNE 30	\$ 400,000	\$ 800,000
TAX LEVY	\$ 9,990,486*	\$ 9,990,486**
	<u>\$ 27,419,845</u>	<u>\$ 28,083,482</u>

* Does not include \$24,000 for the 3 local libraries
 ** Does not include \$24,900 for the 3 local libraries

School Tax Information

Town of	2008-2009/Actual Per Thousand	2009-2010/Estimated Per Thousand
Altona	\$ 20.14	\$ 19.44
Champlain	\$ 20.14	\$ 19.44
Chazy	\$ 20.14	\$ 19.44
Mooers	\$ 20.14	\$ 19.44

School Taxes on \$100,000 Assessment

	2007-08/Actual w/o Star	2008-09/Estimated w/o Star	2008-09/Actual w/\$30,000 Star	2009-10/Estimated w/\$30,000 Star
Altona	\$2,014.00	\$1,944.00	\$1,409.80	\$1,360.80
Champlain	\$2,014.00	\$1,944.00	\$1,409.80	\$1,360.80
Chazy	\$2,014.00	\$1,944.00	\$1,409.80	\$1,360.80
Mooers	\$2,014.00	\$1,944.00	\$1,409.80	\$1,360.80

Land values locally seen on increase

Recession not reducing assessments, county chief cautions

Despite the slumping economy, some homeowners in Clinton County will see an increase in their assessments this year. "People keep saying the housing market is down, but in terms of assessments, it's not," Clinton County Real Property Director James Gonyo said.

He explained that eight towns in the county have not reached an equalization rate of 100 percent as required, which means they will have property revaluations this spring to boost them to 100 percent.

The equalization rate ensures that all property owners pay their fair share in taxes for school and county taxes, regardless of where their property is located or what it is worth.

Residents in Altona, Ausable, Beekmantown, Champlain, Clinton, Dannemora, Mooers and Peru will have their property revalued this spring. "But it is not going to be in every neighborhood in those towns," said Timothy Surpitski, who works in the county's Real Property Office. "Just the areas that are affected most."

Gonyo said that if the county did not re-assess properties in towns with equalization rates less than 100 percent, homeowners' tax bills would go up. For example, a \$100,000 home in Mooers in the Northern Adirondack Central School District would pay \$1,085 in school taxes. If that home were not re-valued, the

tax bill would go up \$75 after applying the equalization rate. "That's assuming that the levy and everything else stays the same," Gonyo said. If the assessment of that same property is raised 2 percent and the levy remains the same, the tax bill would actually drop by \$1.00 Gonyo said.

A \$100,000 house in Mooers in the Northeastern Clinton Central School District would see its tax bill drop by \$10 with a 2-percent increase in assessment, while it would go up \$106 with no revaluation.

"The worst thing we can do is to do nothing," Gonyo said.

The problem assessors face, he said, is perception. With a poor economy and sales of homes dropping, people think their assessments should automatically go down. But that is not the case, Gonyo says. "We are not selling as many houses and those that are on the market sit for a lot longer than they used to, but once they are sold, they are still selling for above the assessment."

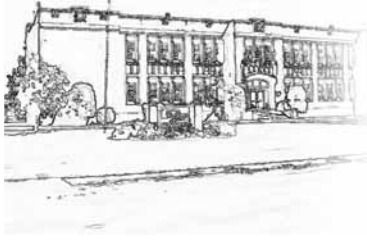
Surpitski said assessors mainly look at property assessments and sale prices when determining new assessments. Gonyo said residents should be more concerned with town spending than assessments because it is the tax levy – the amount of a budget that is raised by taxes – that determines a homeowner's tax bill.

"All our assessors are doing is their job," Gonyo said. "And we are not going to apologize for that." Assessments will be done this month in those eight towns, and residents can grieve the outcome in May if they wish.

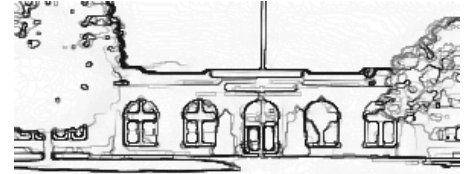
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District Highlights

Elementary



- Second successful year of Early Literacy Program
- Cougar Cubs
- Installation of new computers in all classrooms
- Second year of Safe Schools Ambassadors Program
- Participation in Regional Spelling Bee
- Participation in Jump Rope for Heart
- Participation in Big Change Round-up
- Participation in local food drives



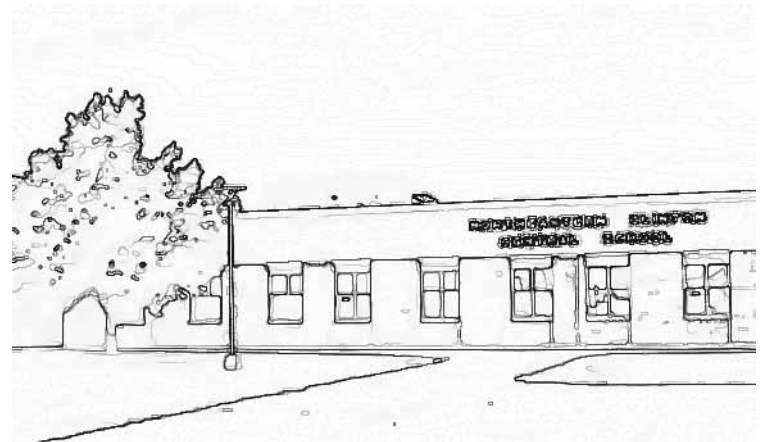
Middle School

- Removal from the School In Need of Improvement List (School in Good Standing)
- Sustained Silent Reading- Routinely done building-wide
- Student of the Month recognition
- Participation in School-wide and Regional Spelling Bee
- Successful Mentoring Program “Big Buddies/ Little Buddies”
- Outdoor Education Program – Camp Overlook
- Successful Middle School-wide independent reading program – 100 Book Challenge



Senior High School

- New computers installed throughout the district
- Creation of an advisory study hall program for at risk students
- Introduction of an Honors Program
- North Country Model UN
- Participation in Harvard Model UN
- Trip to the State Final Four for the girl’s varsity basketball team
- An undefeated season for the boy’s varsity basketball team
- Several successful students in the regional Skills USA competition through CV-TEC

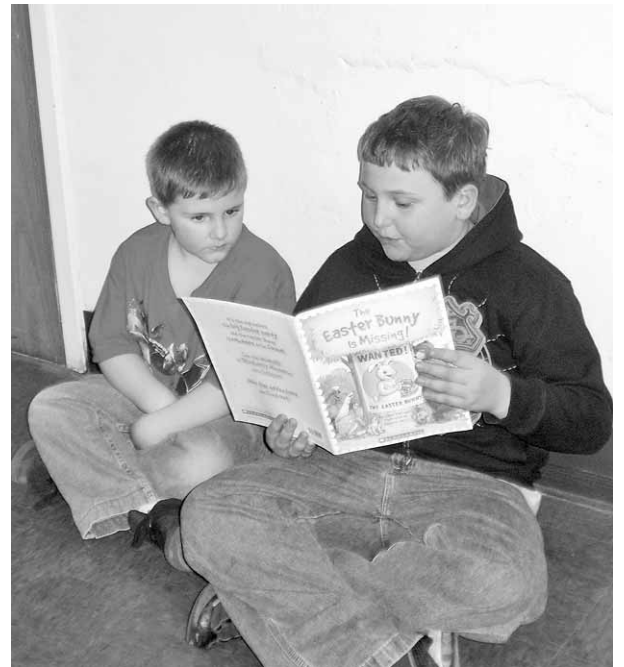


- Formation of a “going green” elective for environmentally minded students
- A new school wide recycling initiative run through the Outdoor Club
- A 15% increase in students taking science

NCCS in Pictures



The K-Kids made bookmarks at one meeting to go with the books that they bought and donated to the CVPH Medical Center.



Northeastern Clinton Central School District Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for the 2008-2009 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2009-2010 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2009-2010 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount	\$27,419,845	\$28,083,482	\$27,986,054
Increase/Decrease for the 2009-10 School Year		\$663,637	\$566,209
Percentage Increase/Decrease in each proposed budget		2.42%	\$2.07%
Change in Consumer Price Index (<i>U.S. Dept. of Labor</i>)		3.8%	
Resulting est. Property Tax Levy for 2009-10 School Year		\$ 9,990,486	\$9,990,486
Component Breakdown			
Administrative Component	\$ 2,008,214	\$2,024,487	\$2,024,487
Program Component	\$20,561,319	\$20,667,437	\$20,615,319
Capital Component	\$ 4,850,312	\$5,391,558	\$5,346,248

Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2009-10 school year should the proposed budget be defeated. The area most affected in the budget would be equipment, which would include the elimination of the replacement of any classroom furniture for the 2009-10 school year.

Estimated Basic STAR* Exemption Savings based on a Hypothetical Home within the School District with a full value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)

	Budget Adopted for the 2008-09 school year	Budget proposed for the 2009-10 school year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$616.80	\$583.20
School Tax increase/decrease	\$5.00	\$0.00
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$611.80	\$583.20

Annual Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 19
11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Middle School &
Mooers Elementary

School Board Candidates
Shane Brink
Linda Gonyo-Horne
(Vote for one)

Northeastern Clinton Central School
103 Rt. 276, Champlain, NY 12919

Peter J. Turner, Superintendent
Stephen Gratto, HS Principal
Thomas Brandell, MS Principal
Matt Slattery, MS/HS Asst. Principal
Dennis Rasco, Mooers Elem. Principal
Robb Garrand, Rouses Point Elem. Principal
Kimberly Hunt, Dir. of Special Education/CSE Chair

Board of Education

Randy LaCount, President
Orville Nedeau, Vice President
Tammy Gonyo
Linda Gonyo-Horne
Perrin Knapp
Dan Letourneau
Stephen Novacich

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