



The

Lion's Pride

Where Education
Shines!

of West Islip Schools



www.wi.k12.ny.us

Official Publication of the West Islip School District

May 2009

2009-2010 Tax Levy Increase Less Than 1%

Reductions in Spending Plan Result in Minimal Increase
of Budget at 1.51% and Tax Levy at .38%

Points of Pride

Award Winning Student Achievement

Throughout the year West Islip School District students and faculty have received a number of achievements and awards. The district is proud to recognize the following students:

National Merit Scholarship Finalists

Seniors Christopher M. and Amanda P. were named by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as semi-finalists in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

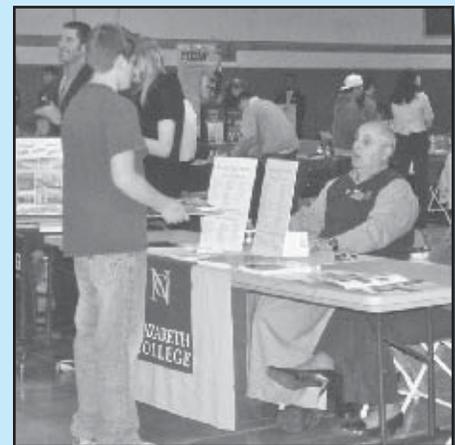
Seniors Daniel F., Sherilyn H. and Jacqueline M. were chosen as Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in its 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program.

In addition to the Merit Scholar winners, West Islip High School students have received many honors and achievements which include: Advance Placement (AP) Recognition (21 AP Scholars, 16 AP Scholars with honors, 23 AP Scholars with distinction and 4 National AP Scholars); candidate for International Baccalaureate World School; 40 SAT 1300/1950 club inductees; 15 Keep Islip Clean Junior Commissioners; 135 members sworn into National Honor Society, finalist for Long Island Science and Engineering Fair; and Mock Trial Team Semi-finalists.

Bright Future for Grads

Large Number of Graduates Accepted
to Top Colleges and Universities

Hundreds of students gathered on March 26th for West Islip's Annual College Fair where over 100 colleges participated. Many students are in the process of determining their future path.



West Islip High School Counseling Office offers guidance in making students' higher education choices.

West Islip held its Annual College Fair on March 26th, with over 100 colleges participating.

This year there are a large number of students who have been accepted to our country's top colleges and universities. The college acceptances include: Harvard, Princeton, MIT, Columbia, Brown, Cornell, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Carnegie-Mellon, NYU, University of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia and Boston College to name a few. If you would like more information, contact Wendy Loddigs at 504-5930.

Budget Public Hearing - Tuesday, May 12th, 7:30 PM • Beach Street Middle School Auditorium
School Budget Vote - Tuesday, May 19th, 10am to 10pm • High School

An Important Message from the Board of Education

2009-2010 West Islip School District Budget

Dear Residents,

On April 22, 2009, the Board of Education unanimously adopted a spending plan for the 2009-2010 school year. This budget is being presented to the community for approval on Tuesday, May 19th. The process this year has been particularly arduous, given the state of the economy, its impact on the NYS budget and consequently our state aid, which is relatively flat versus the prior fiscal year.

Contractual obligations, escalating increases in non-discretionary costs and unfunded mandates continue to disproportionately impact the spending plan. That being said, through a cooperative effort between the unions and the district, we have been able to maintain small class sizes and avoid excessing teachers beyond losses necessary due to the decline in enrollment.

Some of the actions taken include the implementation of a cash only retirement incentive, which will save \$400,000 in salary cost this year, and should provide even greater savings to the district in the next several years. In addition, we received contributions, in the form of salary reductions, from the Superintendent, administrators and teachers amounting to an additional \$274,000 reduction in salary expense.

As a result, the proposed budget for the coming school year reflects a spending increase of only 0.59%, plus \$917,500 for debt payments for the Bond Issue capital improvements, for a total budget to budget increase of 1.51%; which is among the lowest on Long Island. In addition, to keep the financial impact to the community as low as possible, the Board has taken two very deliberate actions. First, we have used all state aid to reduce the tax rate increase. Secondly, we are using \$1,971,972 from reserves to completely offset the cost of the capital projects included in the budget and to fund non-recurring expenses. As a result of these actions, the projected tax increase is 0.38%. This tax rate projection



Pictured above, the West Islip School District Board of Education: front row Steven D. Gellar, Vice President; George K. Smith, President; Sharon Bieselin; back row Eliot Bloom; Wayne Smith; Annmarie LaRosa and Robert Ulrich.

also assumes a \$177,000 charge for a proposed MTA tax, which may or may not be assessed.

Should the budget not pass on May 19th, a contingent budget may be adopted by the school board. The contingent budget, by law, would be a 1.48% increase. The proposed budget is \$2,484,876 less than the allowable contingent budget. As a result, the tax rate increase under a contingent budget would be higher, at 1.93%, than under a community-approved plan. A more detailed explanation can be found on page 8 of this newsletter.

We believe the budget to be both fiscally and educationally responsible, but it is the community that ultimately has the last word. Please don't let others speak for you. Make your wishes clear by attending the Budget Presentation on May 12th at 7:30 p.m. at Beach Street Middle School, and by exercising your right to vote on Super Tuesday, May 19th, in the High School girls' gym between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Thank you for your involvement in the education of our youth. They are our country's future workforce and leaders.

Sincerely,

The West Islip Board of Education

Budget Public Hearing and the Superintendent's School Video

Tuesday, May 12th • 7:30 PM • Beach Street Middle School Auditorium

The Public Hearing on the proposed school budget for the 2009-10 school year is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th, in the Beach Street Middle School auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Additionally, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Beth Virginia Blau will present her fifth annual school video, featuring many of the students.

2009-2010 School Budget Questions Asked



Q. Governor Paterson has said that state aid to school districts was restored, how has this affected West Islip?

A. Throughout the 2009/2010 budget process, the projections of state aid revenue for West Islip have fluctuated. At one point the projection was that our state aid would be cut by 2.3 million dollars. This would have required either a significant reduction in staff and services to our students or a significant increase in real estate taxes. Due to the Federal Stimulus Funds, this proposed reduction was reversed. The current anticipated state aid for 2009/2010 is \$205,094 higher than we are receiving for the current school year. This represents a .63% increase. In prior school years we have generally received a 3% to 4% increase in state aid each year.

Q. The construction work for the \$22.7 million dollar Bond Issue is beginning this summer. Is there an increase in the budget for this?

A. There is an increase in the budget of \$917,500 to pay the debt payments for borrowing for the Bond Issue. But there is a zero effect on the tax levy. We are using funds from the Fund Balance and will receive state aid in future years. As was promised to the community, no tax dollars are being raised for this construction.

Q. How can I get a copy of the detailed budget?

A. Copies of the Budget Book will be available at each school, at the District Office, and at the public library on May 5, 2009. Copies will also be available at the Budget Hearing meeting on May 12, 2009, which will be at the Beach Street auditorium at 7:30pm. It will also be posted to the district web-site on May 5, 2009.

Technology Update

West Islip Schools Take Library Services Online



Last spring, all nine schools in West Islip switched their library catalog systems to a new web-based program called Destiny. Since this new program is accessible via the Internet, students, teachers and parents are able to search for items in each school's library collection from school and from home. Students now have the advantage of being able to search from home for materials that they need for assignments or to search for books that they would like to read for their own pleasure. Parents, too, can get involved and see what library resources are available. It also allows for greater resource sharing among our schools.

Our very youngest students are able to search for materials by using the visual search screen. Colorful icons guide them to books on fairy tales, holidays, animals, sports and much more.

Another great feature is "TitlePeek". Most book titles are accompanied by a picture of the book. When you click on the picture, another screen comes up with information on the book that often includes an excerpt of the first chapter. This can be helpful when choosing a book to enjoy. In future upgrades, teachers will have the ability to create resource lists for student projects and assignments.

From home and from school, Destiny can be easily accessed by going to the District home page at: www.wi.k12.ny.us, and once there, click on the lion icon.

The next screen that comes up will list all of the district's schools. Choose the school whose catalog you would like to search. Good luck and happy searching!

Update on Bond Referendum

As mentioned in the last newsletter, bond construction will begin this summer with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2010. The majority of the work will be done during the summer months of 2009 and 2010. The following construction projects will begin this summer: replacing boilers in schools, construction of the artificial turf field and construction of new track, curbs and sidewalks. Masera Learning Center's major renovations will start this summer with additional work to be completed next summer.



How to Compute Your Property Tax Increase



1. Locate your 2008 Islip Town property tax bill.
2. Find the assessed value of your home.
3. Divide that amount by 100.
4. Multiply the result by \$.056
5. This amount is your approximate 2009-2010 school tax increase.

The Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

General Support

BOARD OF EDUCATION 1010

This category is used to charge expenditures incurred by members of the Board of Education. Included are expenses for legal notices, memberships in various state and local School Board Associations, expenses for travel, conferences, and reference materials.

2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Proposed Budget
\$ 28,315	28,240

DISTRICT CLERK 1040

This item reflects the salary of the District Clerk and other expenses of the clerk's office. The District Clerk attends all regular and special meetings, records minutes and maintains all other official records of the district.

30,882	21,104
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DISTRICT MEETING 1060

This code is used to charge the salaries of inspectors and registrars, rental of voting machines, advertising publications of legal notices, printing, and all other expenses of the school district election, budget and other votes as may be required.

13,100	13,100
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CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR 1240

This code is used to charge compensation and expenses of the Superintendent of Schools, who has overall responsibility for the administration of the school system. Included are the salaries of clerical staff. Also included are costs for maintenance of equipment, supplies, conference expenses, and any other expenses directly related to this area of responsibility.

343,904	366,972
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BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 1310

This provides for the compensation and expenses of the Assistant Superintendent for Business, business office staff, and internal claims auditor. Cost of repair and replacement of equipment, supplies and business forms, service contracts, travel in district, conference and staff development expenses, and the cost of the financial accounting programs are included here.

679,678	698,760
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AUDITING SERVICES 1320

Recorded here are expenditures incurred for auditing services provided by two independent CPA firms, as required by law.

86,380	92,500
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DISTRICT TREASURER 1325

This item includes the District Treasurer's office. The Treasurer is the custodian of all monies belonging to the school district and furnishes the Board of Education with periodic reports and statements of monies received and disbursed.

2,950	2,950
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PURCHASING 1345

This category includes the salary paid to the purchasing agent, supplies and materials, conference expenses, advertising public bids, membership dues, and associated fees for the District's participation in the BOCES Cooperative Purchasing Program.

80,227	85,012
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LEGAL SERVICES 1420

This code is used for the expenses of the school attorney for independent legal services and services as a labor negotiator. Additional legal services include defending the school district against law suits, petitions filed with the Commissioner of Education, and legal counsel at Board of Education meetings. Additionally, professional and legal costs associated with the District's Tax Anticipation Note borrowing are coded here.

256,500	279,600
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The Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

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	2008-2009 <u>Budget</u>	2009-2010 <u>Proposed Budget</u>
<p>PERSONNEL 1430 This code is used to provide for the compensation for the Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources and the clerical staff responsible for the personnel function. All direct expenditures incurred in recruiting and orienting school district personnel and in maintaining personnel records are charged here, in addition to the proposed MTA tax charge to employers.</p>	\$ 286,073	477,656
<p>SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS 1480 The primary expenses in this category are the costs of printing and distributing the school district newsletters, special purpose announcements and events to the community, and postage costs for all district mailings.</p>	125,000	100,557
<p>PLANT OPERATIONS 1620 This functional unit is charged with costs concerned in keeping the physical plant open and ready for use. The expenses for plant operations include all custodial salaries, security salaries, building and equipment repair, non-instructional equipment, miscellaneous cleaning supplies, paper goods, gasoline, exterminating services, utilities, and professional and technical services.</p>	6,084,653	6,135,493
<p>PLANT MAINTENANCE 1621 This functional unit is charged with costs concerned in the maintenance, repair, and replacement of associated equipment and fixtures of the physical plant and grounds. Service contracts, maintenance projects, vehicle repair, salaries for maintenance mechanics and groundsmen are also charged to this account.</p>	1,205,768	1,202,327
<p>PRINTING AND PUBLISHING UNIT 1670 This budget code includes the costs incurred for services rendered to various functions in the school district for reproducing and printing forms, circular notices, manuals, etc. The salary for the District's receptionist, publicist services from BOCES, service contracts, and the rental of reproduction equipment are also included in this category.</p>	191,719	158,106
<p>DATA PROCESSING UNIT 1680 This functional unit is charged with supporting the computer operations of the district. This also includes processing of payroll, fund accounting, student attendance, census data, personnel accounting and other data processing requests. Expenses include salaries for personnel, administrative computer equipment rental, and purchase of supplies.</p>	743,208	767,821
<p>UNALLOCATED INSURANCE 1910 This account includes the cost for insurance coverage such as property/casualty and liability, Employee Blanket Bond, automobile, school board liability and student accident insurance.</p>	562,660	501,450
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES/BOCES 1981 This allocation represents the estimated cost payable to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) for its administrative services. In accordance with law, each participating school district must contribute a proportional share toward this expense.</p>	526,391	538,729
General Support Total	\$11,247,408	11,470,377

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The Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

Instruction

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT 2010

This category is used to record the compensation of the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Expenditures, incurred with the general coordination of curriculum development for all subjects K-12, and supervision that is system-wide and not confined to one school or area, as well as professional services for the implementation of curriculum, are appropriated here.

	2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Proposed Budget
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT 2010	\$ 359,842	385,987

SUPERVISION, PRINCIPALS 2020

Within this category are the appropriations for the salaries of building principals, associate principal, assistant principals, directors, supervisors and deans. Salaries for the clerical staff for all schools in the district, as well as the funds for principals' office supplies and travel expenses are appropriated here.

SUPERVISION, PRINCIPALS 2020	3,417,021	3,635,670
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SUMMER SCHOOL-ADMINISTRATION 2040

Included here is the salary for the Summer School Administrator.

SUMMER SCHOOL-ADMINISTRATION 2040	7,545	7,847
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ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL - ADMINISTRATION 2045

Included here is the salary for the Alternative School Administrator.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL - ADMINISTRATION 2045	39,538	40,922
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IN-SERVICE TRAINING 2070

Included are salaries for in-service instructors, materials for curriculum development, teaching materials and supplies, and the cost of two district-wide Supt. Conference Days, and the district's Teacher Mentor Program.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING 2070	90,833	63,000
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TEACHING 2110

Included in this budget code are expenses for classroom teachers, of the home-bound, and aides. In addition to teachers' salaries, expenses for the following are also included: general supplies, workbooks, periodicals, paper supplies, duplicating supplies, sheet music, maps, textbooks, equipment rental, commencement, conferences, tuition to other school districts, BOCES services, and any other expense defined as that part of the instructional program concerned with instructing pupils in a teaching-learning situation.

TEACHING 2110	34,976,242	35,335,695
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PROGRAMS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN 2250

Included in this category are salaries for classroom teachers, speech and language teachers, supportive services, and expenses for educating children with handicapping conditions. Also included are tuition charges, professional services for student evaluations, equipment, materials, textbooks, BOCES services and additional speech services for kindergarten classes.

PROGRAMS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN 2250	10,507,132	11,051,158
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SERVICES FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS 2270

Compensation for teaching personnel involved in the education of pupils with special educational needs are accounted for in this category. Materials and supplies consumed in this phase of the program are also recorded here. This is a remedial program required for students who fail certain state tests or score below the reference point on standardized tests.

SERVICES FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS 2270	1,080,478	1,151,093
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OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION 2280

Included here is the cost of occupational/technical education courses offered at BOCES.

OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION 2280	926,627	702,957
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The Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

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	2008-2009 <u>Budget</u>	2009-2010 <u>Proposed Budget</u>
<p>ADULT ED./DRIVER EDUCATION/SATURDAY ENRICHMENT 2310 Included in this category are the costs for self-sustaining Adult Education, Driver Education and Saturday Enrichment Programs. Revenues will be generated through fees charged to program participants for a variety of workshops and courses.</p>	\$ 204,783	200,613
<p>SUMMER SCHOOL 2330 Included here are the salaries for Summer School teachers and support staff.</p>	77,802	63,994
<p>ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL 2335 Included here are the salaries for the Alternative School teachers and support staff.</p>	221,554	227,101
<p>SCHOOL LIBRARY/A.V. 2610 This category includes all audiovisual and library personnel expenses. In addition, all expenses included for general supplies, periodicals, video equipment, A.V. equipment, library books, equipment rental, and other expenses defined as that part of the instructional program concerned with pupils in a teaching-learning situation.</p>	1,006,787	1,011,389
<p>COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION 2630 Included here are costs for instructional computer software and hardware, as well as costs for the technology initiative.</p>	626,336	694,732
<p>ATTENDANCE SERVICES 2805 The expenditures in this code are for the district-wide attendance function. The primary purpose of this service is the promotion and improvement of children's attendance at school.</p>	80,356	81,250
<p>GUIDANCE SERVICES 2810 This account is used to record expenditures for guidance services provided to secondary pupils. Includes guidance counselor salaries, clerical services, supplies, tests, conferences, and printed materials.</p>	1,489,717	1,525,286
<p>HEALTH SERVICES 2815 This budget code is used to record expenses of medical and nurses' services to pupils within schools in the district, as well as charges for services of West Islip students attending schools outside the district. This account is also used to charge the cost of required physical examinations for students and certain staff.</p>	790,286	833,711
<p>DIAGNOSTIC SCREENING 2816 This category contains appropriations for student diagnostic screening.</p>	25,308	18,800
<p>PSYCHOLOGISTS 2820 This category is used to record expenditures incurred for psychological services rendered by certified school psychologists as part of a pupil personnel program.</p>	892,366	938,977
<p>SOCIAL WORK 2825 Included in this category are the expenditures for social workers' salaries and general supplies consumed during the daily operation of this office. Social workers provide services to students in crisis or at-risk and they work with the families of these students.</p>	210,434	230,818
<p>PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES 2830 Recorded here are expenditures for the office of Pupil Personnel services. These include the cost of one clerical person, dues and office supplies.</p>	51,729	53,382

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The Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

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CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2850

This classification is used to record expenditures for co-curricular activities which may include plays, bands, orchestras, school newspapers, school clubs, etc. Included is compensation for the advisors of various activities and funds for sheet music for music activities.

2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Proposed Budget
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\$ 255,383	260,224
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INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS 2855

This category is charged with all direct expenditures incurred with coaches' salaries and maintaining teams for inter-school competitive athletics.

1,030,812	1,061,997
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Instruction Total	\$58,368,911	59,576,603
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2009-2010 School District Holidays & Important Dates

The school calendar for 2009-10 has been approved by the Board of Education and shows the first day of school and days off as follows:

Sept. 3rd & 4th.....Supt.'s Conference Days
 September 7th.....Labor Day
 September 8th..... First Day for Students
 September 28th.....Yom Kippur
 October 12th.....Columbus Day
 November 11th.....Veteran's Day
 November 26th-27th.....Thanksgiving
 Dec. 24th - Jan. 1st....Christmas/Chanukah Recess
 January 18th.....Martin Luther King Jr.
 February 15th-19th.....Mid Winter Recess
 Mar. 29th-April 5th.....Easter/Passover Recess
 May 28th & 31st.....Memorial Day Recess
 June 25th..... Last Day of Classes
 June 26th.....Graduation Day

For 2009-2010 "Contingency" Means Higher Taxes

Every year, the school district is required to explain to the community the impact that a contingency budget would have, should the need to adopt one arise. A contingency budget limits the amount that the spending plan may increase from year to year, with some legal restrictions on what can be included (i.e. no equipment, capital projects, etc. under a contingent budget).

For 2009-2010, the budget cap for New York State school districts is 4%. This could have resulted in an increase from the proposed budget in the amount of \$2,484,876. Since the proposed budget is only an increase of 1.51%, the contingent budget would result in a 1.48% budget increase.

However, the tax rate increase is not only linked to the dollars that will be spent. It is also connected to the amount of revenue that the district receives, such as state aid, and the amount of reserves the district utilizes.

In the event of a contingent budget, a tax rate increase of 1.93% for West Islip residents is anticipated. On a home assessed at \$ 45,000, this amounts to \$101.74 per year more, than would be paid under a community-approved plan.

Ten parking spaces have been reserved in front of West Islip High School for the convenience of senior citizens. Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The busiest times for voting are usually between 5 & 9 p.m.

If a family member works in the city or your college student will not be in town on May 19th, absentee ballot applications are available on the district website: www.wi.k12.ny.us

The Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

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	2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Proposed Budget
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>		
TRANSPORTATION 5510 Included in this category is the cost of transporting children within the district to all West Islip Schools and transportation for students living in the district who attend certain private and parochial schools.	\$ 4,619,128	4,863,951
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>		
RECREATION 7140 This is the cost of an in-district operated recreation program. This is a self-sustaining program which is paid by fees charged to program participants.	16,000	16,000
<u>UNDISTRIBUTED EXPENSES</u>		
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS 9010 In accordance with law, the school district must contribute to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System and the New York State Employees' Retirement System a certain percentage of the total salaries paid to each employee. Also included in this section is the employer's share for Social Security, Medicare and other Insurance Benefits.	18,502,199	17,787,744
OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS 9040/9050/9055 This covers the cost for the administrator's fee, workers' compensation claims, and excess insurance coverage for our self-insured workmen's compensation program, as well as the costs for unemployment and long-term disability insurance.	290,000	140,000
DEBT SERVICE 9700/9800 These accounts reflect the district expenditures for principal and interest on long-term bonds and short-term notes. Please note that the major portion of bond principal and interest is funded through State Aid, as well as interest earned on debt proceeds. Also included is \$488,805 in debt service payments for the W.I. Library's \$6,100,000 bond, which is not funded by school taxes.	6,483,663	7,255,650
INTERFUND TRANSFERS 9901 The Special Aid Fund transfer represents the district's share (20%) of the cost of summer programs for specific children with disabilities.	70,000	90,000
TO: CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION 9950 This expenditure represents the funds to be expended on capital construction projects (There are no 2009-2010 capital projects other than the bond issue improvements).	100,000	0
Undistributed Total	\$ 25,445,862	25,273,394
Total General Budget Fund	\$ 99,697,309	101,200,325

If a state-ordered contingency budget is imposed on West Islip Schools due to a failed budget vote on May 19th, homes with an average assessed value of \$45,000 (please check your property tax bill) will see a \$ 127.08 tax increase. If the proposed budget passes, that same house will see an increase of \$25.34.

Board of Education Candidates' Biographies



Incumbent Steve Gellar

Steve Gellar was born and raised in Brooklyn, where he grew up an avid sports fan and participant. After gaining valuable work experience in the construction industry as both a project manager and specialist in con-

struction contracts and estimating, Steve put himself through college and earned his Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Electrical Engineering from Polytechnic University.

While attending Polytechnic, Steve worked at the university, developing, delivering, and supervising all aspects of the Freshman Engineering Program. In addition to teaching, Steve's responsibilities included the formulation, adoption, and execution of the annual department budget. During this time, Steve developed a passion for education and a commitment to helping students, as well as a determination to help return the American education system to a position of world prominence.

Steve left Polytechnic in 1996 and went to work for ALL Systems as a designer of space-based mi-

crowave communications systems and then moved on to L3 Communications, in 2003, as a designer of ground-based satellite communications systems. Since 2008, Steve has been employed by Bren-Tronics, as a Program Manager, overseeing multi-million dollar programs from inception, through engineering design, to production.

Steve and his wife Evelyn will be celebrating their eighteenth wedding anniversary this July. They have two children, Lindsey and Mark, who both attend Manetuck Elementary School. Steve's favorite way to spend free time is with his family. They enjoy traveling, sports, and watching movies together. As a family, the Gellars arrange their busy schedules to attend as many activities together as possible.

Since Steve and Evelyn decided to make West Islip their home in 1996, Steve has become progressively more involved in community activities. In addition to serving on the Board of Education for the past three years, including the last two as the Vice-President, Steve is the co-chair of the West Islip Summit Coalition, a trustee of PAWS, a director of REFIT (Reform Educational Financing Inequities Today), a Little League baseball and softball manager, and the past president of the Manetuck Elementary PTA. Steve's committee work on the school board has included the Education, Legislative Action, Finance, Buildings & Grounds, and Policy Committees, and West Islip School Board Liaison.

Arts Achievements

The district's fine arts students have accomplished outstanding achievements including: scoring in the top 5% in the nation for high school AP art studio program during the past seven years; 122 Student Musicians were selected for All-County Music Performing Groups; High School Gold Dance Company auditioned and performed at the N.Y.C. 92nd St. Y Dance Showcase; 6 Students selected for the All-State Music Festival; 1 Student selected for All-Eastern Music Festival; 687 Student musicians participated in the New York State Music Assessment Competition on May 2nd and 3rd, and twenty-six West Islip Music Ensembles have performed at the NYSSMA Major Organization Assessment Competition.

West Islip Music students have auditioned and been selected for the following tri-state music programs: Juilliard School of Music pre-College, Mannes School of Music pre-college, All Nassau/Suffolk Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, Long Island Youth Orchestra and Gemini Youth Orchestra.

West Islip Music students have been selected into the following summer music programs: New York State Summer School for the Arts – Orchestra Program, Kindhaven Music School, Usdan Center for the Performing Arts and the National High School Summer Music Institute.



Board of Education Candidates' Biographies



Michael Zotto

Michael Zotto was born in Valley Stream and raised in Lindenhurst. He is a highly decorated and respected member of the New York Police Department (NYPD) who rose to the distinguished rank of Detective

1st Grade. He retired from the NYPD in August 2007, serving over 21 years in law enforcement in such undercover units as the Narcotics Division, Street Crime Division and the Intelligence Division. While assigned to the Intelligence Division, post 9/11, he and several of his colleagues were tasked with the creation of a sub unit called the Terrorist Interdiction Unit. Detective Michael Zotto, along with his colleagues, were lauded for their investigation, arrest and conviction of two terrorists that conspired to blow up the subway station at 34th St. and Herald Square 2004. On March 2,

2007, he was presented the U.S. Department of Justice Award by United States Attorney Roslyn R. Mauskopf, in recognition of his meritorious service and outstanding contribution in the prosecution of this case.

Upon retiring from the NYPD, Michael was hired by the Office of Homeland Security as a Confidential Advisor to the Public Safety Directorate.

Michael resigned in January 2009, to build his company the "Strategic Protection Group, Inc.," specializing in all phases of security and protection.

"Serving as a school board trustee will enable me to be part of the decision process involving the implementation of new programs impacting the lives of West Islip students. I have a deep interest in promoting programs that bring awareness to our youth such as drug and alcohol abuse, bias and prejudice, and programs that promote making right choices".

Michael and his wife Patricia have resided in West Islip since 1994. They have three sons: Michael, Jr. and Nicholas attend West Islip High School and Matthew attends Paul J Bellew.

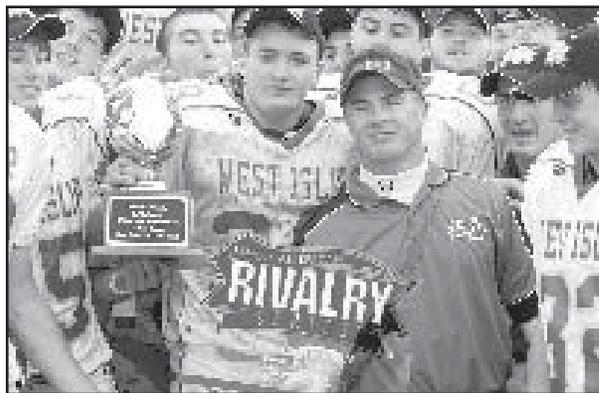
Michael has been actively involved in West Islip Little League baseball where he has managed and continues to coach.

Sports Recognition

Congratulations to our West Islip athletes for the recognition they have received including:

Eleven Fall and Winter Scholar Athlete Team Award winners for: Girls Soccer, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Girls Tennis, Girls Swimming, Football, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Winter Track, Boys Swimming and Diving; seventy-three All League and All Division Athletes; and nineteen All County Athletes.

Pictured right, West Islip Football team with Head Coach Tim Horan proudly displaying the Great American Rivalry Trophy. The Marine Corps recently started its Great American Rivalry series recognizing the 30 greatest high school football rivalries across



America. The West Islip-East Islip rivalry was selected as one of the top high school rivalries in the United States. This past fall, West Islip won the inaugural game 35-14. The Great American Rivalry committee inducted former coaches Wayne Shierant (West Islip) and Sal Ciampi Sr. (East Islip) into their Hall of Fame during a halftime ceremony. In addition, the Great American Rivalry committee recognized a football scholar athlete from each town with a plaque and \$500 scholarship. Mike M. who will be attending Yale in the Fall received the award for West Islip.

West Islip School District
 Freyer Administration Bldg.
 100 Sherman Avenue
 West Islip, NY 11795

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Board of Education
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 Eliot Bloom
 Annmarie LaRosa
 Wayne Smith
 Robert Ulrich

Sarah Anker, Editor
 Public and Media Relations Director

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Summary of the Budget

	2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Proposed Budget
<u>Estimated Appropriations</u>		
General Support	\$ 11,247,408	\$ 11,470,377
Instruction	58,368,911	59,576,603
Transportation	4,619,128	4,863,951
Community Services	16,000	16,000
Undistributed Expenses	25,445,862	25,273,394
Total Estimated Appropriations	\$ 99,697,309	\$ 101,200,325
<u>Estimated Revenues</u>		
State Aid	\$ 32,452,904	\$ 32,657,998
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,190,000	1,971,972
Other Revenue	3,232,534	3,507,134
Estimated Property Tax	62,821,871	63,063,221
Total Estimated Revenue	\$ 99,697,309	\$ 101,200,325

Numbers at a Glance

2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Prop'd.
\$ 99,697,309	\$ 101,200,325

<u>School Tax Levy</u>	
\$ 62,821,871	\$ 63,063,221

Change
 \$241,350

Tax rate per \$100 of
Assessed Value

\$ 14.64 14.70*

The Difference
 6 cents

Tax Increase
 .38%*

* These amounts should only be considered an estimate until all assessments and the homestead/non-homestead apportionments have been finalized by Islip Town.

Voting Information

Residents may vote on the proposed 2009-2010 school budget and Board of Education candidates if they are...

- U.S. citizens
- 18 years of age or older
- a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Those who are registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections and have voted in county, state and national elections in the last four years, may

also vote on May 19th.

Voter Registration is May 12th in Beach Street Middle School from 2 pm-8 pm.

Absentee ballot applications are available on the district website, at the Receptionist's Desk in the District Office at 100 Sherman Avenue, and in the school buildings. Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk by 5 pm on the day of the vote.

Proposed Budget
 versus
 Contingent
 See page 8.

You can also learn about the proposed budget at www.wi.k12.ny.us