

Readington Township School District Budget for 2012-13



PRESENTED – MARCH 2012

Budget Goals



- ❖ Reduce the tax impact for community members
- ❖ Maintain class size guidelines
- ❖ Enrich students' academic experiences
 - ✓ Reinvigorate literacy instruction
 - ✓ Increase instructional time in Spanish at elementary schools
 - ✓ Offer Mandarin Chinese at Readington Middle School
- ❖ Maintain Technology Infrastructure
 - ✓ Equity of technology across schools and grade levels
 - ✓ Offer parents and teachers greater access to student information (teacher gradebook, reports, attendance, etc.)
 - ✓ Replace obsolete equipment
 - ✓ Develop potential for students to bring personal technology to school

Enrollment Forecast

- Anticipated PreK through 8 enrollment of 1892 (-57)
- 743 Readington Middle School School (741 this year)
- 7 Out-of-district Placements
- 33 Preschool

Approximately a 3% decrease in enrollment

Positions Eliminated or Reduced



- Three general education elementary positions – due to enrollment
 - Two positions at Whitehouse School
 - One position at Holland Brook School
- Science Resource position at Holland Brook School
- French position at Holland Brook School
- Part-time Technician

TOTAL: \$249,252.

Proposed Additions



- Two Spanish Teachers (Elementary Schools)
- One Mandarin Chinese Teacher (.4 at RMS)
- Part-time Transportation Clerk (share with Branchburg)
- One Technician

TOTAL: \$154,044

Budget Development Steps



- Per pupil amount applied to each school budget to align costs
- Curriculum cycle revised to lower program costs
- Principals and Departments submit proposed budgets early December
- Public meetings with Finance Committee to review tax levy cap, state aid status and other revenue sources
- Presentation of tentative budget March 13
- Budget hearing March 27
- Presentation to Township Committee April 2
- Budget vote April 17

Financial Outlook



- Additional state aid in the amount of \$314,774.00 was awarded in July 2011. This money is being returned to taxpayers this year.
- We anticipate receiving \$1,527,374 in state aid for 2012-13.
- We are reducing our budget by 1% and are returning a total of \$828,460. to taxpayers.

Revenue Variables

- State aid: \$1,527,374.
- Tuition, Fees, Interest, and Surplus Withdrawal: \$401,340.
- Grants (NCLB, IDEA): \$415,443.

Continuing Cost Containment



- **Cooperative purchasing through -**
 - School Alliance Insurance Fund
 - Middlesex, Somerset, and Hunterdon County Ed Services Commissions
 - Readington Township (Fuel, salt)
- **Shared services projects**
 - Shared Transportation Supervisor, Mechanic, and Dispatcher with Branchburg
 - Technology services provided to Tewksbury
 - Readington Township Recreation (Facilities Use and Improvements)
 - Investors Banking (through joint RFP)
- **Share professional development with regional districts**

Operating Budget Tax Levy



Budget Year	Total \$	Decrease %
2009-2010	\$27,038,539	
2010-11	\$27,703,081	
2011-12	\$27,426,050	
2012-13	\$26,586,701	- 3%

Total Taxes including Debt Service



Budget Year	Total Taxes	Difference \$	Difference %
2008-09	\$30,189,117		
2009-10	\$29,157,442	- \$1,031,675.	
2010-11	\$29,592,975	- \$435,533.	
2011-12	\$29,609,399	+ \$16,424	
2012-13	\$28,780,939	- \$828,460.	- 3%

State Aid and Tax Levy



Budget Year	State Aid	Tax Levy
2009-10	\$2,081,907 (+\$99,822)	\$27,038,539 (- \$1,047,057)
2010-11	\$525,458 (- \$1,556,449)	\$27,703,081 (+\$664,542)
2011-12	\$1,210,604 (+\$685,146)	\$27,426,050 (- \$277,031)
2012-13	\$1,369,600 (+ \$158,996)	\$26,586,701 (-\$839,349)

What does the state allow?

- The state of NJ allows school districts to increase the local tax levy by 2% each year, which means that Readington Township **could** increase the tax levy by \$548,521.
- With a move to a November school board election – residents would have no say at all in this decision.
- Instead, Readington Township has **decreased** the tax levy by 3% **and** preserved the community's right to vote on the school budget.

Tax Impact



- Total Tax Levy - \$28,780,939 - which is a \$828,460 decrease from last year

however . . .

- There was a \$54,917,086. decrease in ratables per recent re-assessment.
- 1.03% school tax rate increase
8.4% decrease before the change in assessed valuation
- Rate increases by \$.011 to \$1.087, from \$1.076
\$.915 per \$100,000 before the change in assessed valuation

Proposed Tax Rate



YEAR	TAX RATE	AVERAGE TAX
2010 – 11	\$1.0373	\$4070 on average assessed home of \$392,400.
2011 – 12	\$1.0765	\$4052 on average assessed home of \$376,400.
2012 - 13	\$1.087	\$3994.75 on average assessed home of \$367,300.

SUMMARY



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have any questions!

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We need your support!

