

## Wyckoff Township Public Schools

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Dear Community Members,

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, April 15 during the hours of 2pm to 9pm at your polling location. If you were unable to attend a Budget Presentation, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on our school website at [www.wyckoffschools.org](http://www.wyckoffschools.org). Sample ballots should be mailed to all registered voters this week. An informational Budget Newsletter from the Board of Education will arrive at each residence prior to the Election.

The construction projects are nearing completion. We have a certificate of occupancy for Eisenhower School and a temporary certification of occupancy for three of our four elementary schools. Coolidge Elementary School has some minor items to be completed and a temporary certificate of occupancy will be issued in the next several weeks.

### **Answers to Questions:**

Some questions have surfaced regarding the budget and referendum, and I would like to take this opportunity to provide some helpful background information.

In 2004, at Eisenhower School, there were 13 teachers either on a cart or without a designated classroom. Triple classes of physical education occurred simultaneously in 6 periods of every school day. One half of the gym, media center, and the cafetorium's stage were being used as classrooms until the double trailers were installed.

In 2004, in each of the elementary schools, numerous teachers were on a cart or did not have designated classrooms. Every resource room was occupied by two to three teachers who provided instruction to their students simultaneously. Closets and the entrance of the stage were being used to provide small group instruction as well as occupational and physical therapy services.

If a change in enrollment caused a grade level to split, there were no available classrooms to house the students without displacing the music or art programs.

The PreK Disabled Program started in January 1993 with 4 students. Presently there is an enrollment of 26 students. Space for additional students did not exist. In September of 2009, the program will once again be expanded to include 3 year olds and to comply with state mandates.

In September 2004, the community passed this important school referendum allowing the district to address the critical space issues of enrollment at that time and any enrollment shifts in the future. Construction has been a challenging journey, but it is almost at an end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued patience, tolerance and understanding. The end result will benefit our children and the entire community for many years to come.

**Proposed School Budget:**

The proposed budget allows the district to maintain all present education programs, including the visual and performing arts (art, vocal music and instrumental music); nursing services; health and physical education; extracurricular activities; athletics; library/media center services; guidance services; computer/technology instruction; world languages; academic support; gifted and talented; and others. The proposed budget includes a continued focus on the District Balanced Literacy Initiative including reading and writing components. The budget will allow for the acquisition of more leveled books at each grade level to support our Balanced Literacy Program. The budget will allow the district to begin an evaluation and review of our present math program. The proposed budget will effectively support the integration of technology throughout all subject areas. All of our schools' classrooms are networked and connected to the vast resources of the worldwide web. The integration of subject matter and technology provides teachers with instructional materials that stimulate student interest while challenging their intellect.

The proposed school budget includes an increase in utility/energy costs and an increase in special projects to comply with state mandates such as asbestos remediation. Also included are funds for preventative maintenance of our older facilities including boilers, ceilings, and floors to be inspected this coming year for state monitoring.

More information about the Wyckoff School District can be found on the district website [www.wyckoffschools.org](http://www.wyckoffschools.org) or on the New Jersey Department of Education Website [www.state.nj.us/education](http://www.state.nj.us/education).

Again, I thank everyone for taking the time to examine the Proposed School Budget Presentation posted on our school website and to read over the School Budget Newsletter that will be mailed to each residence prior to the Election, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Janet Razze, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools