



The Beacon



Shining a light on the Baldwinsville Central School District

Issue 68

May 2009

2009-2010 Budget News

	<u>'08-'09</u>	<u>'09-'10</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Budget	\$92,716,906	\$93,669,512	1.03%
Tax Levy	\$46,780,000	\$46,780,000	-0-

No Increase in the School Tax Levy for 2009-10

PP VOTE: May 19, 2009 PP
Baker High School, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Dear Baldwinsville Central School District resident:

We hope you will take the time to read this important issue of *The Beacon*, which details the district's 2009-2010 budget proposal. As always, administrators and Board of Education members developed this budget with a single goal - to provide a quality education for Baldwinsville students while continuing to be fiscally responsible to district taxpayers. The major influences on the 2009-2010 budget are a reduction in staff, increased employee benefit costs, and increased BOCES costs. In spite of the economic challenges the district is facing, there is **NO INCREASE IN THE TAX LEVY** with the proposed 2009-2010 budget.

In addition to reviewing the budget, please read about the additional ballot proposition regarding the annual purchase of buses and review the biographies of the candidates running for three seats on the Board of Education.

Please attend the public budget presentation to be held in the cafeteria of Baker High School on May 12 at 7:00 p.m., and please exercise your right to vote on May 19! Voting will be held in the auditorium of Baker High School from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

On behalf of the Board of Education,
Kevin Bernstein, Board of Education President

Public Budget Hearing
May 12
Baker H.S. 7:00 p.m.

In this issue

Budget expenditures.....p. 2	Tax impact.....p. 4	School board elections.....p. 6
Budget revenues.....p. 3	Budget highlights.....p. 5	District highlights.....p. 8
Bus purchase.....p. 4	Contingent budget.....p. 5	

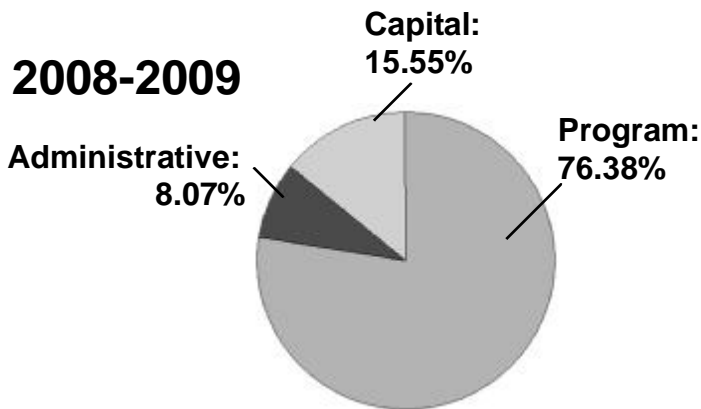
Budget Expenditures

State law requires the 2009-2010 budget to be presented in three parts: program, capital and administrative. Please see page 5 for more details of the budget highlights and page 4 for more information on the projected tax impact.

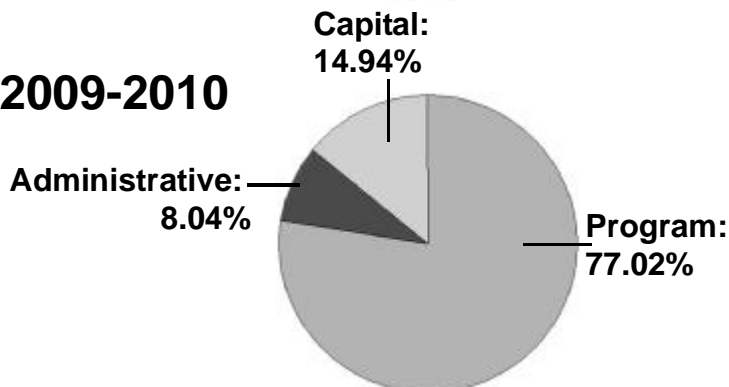
	2009-10 proposed budget	2008-09 final appropriation	Dollar difference	Percent difference
Program	\$72,139,812	\$70,813,880	\$1,325,932	1.9%
The program component is intended to provide every student with educational experiences and opportunities to foster the full development of his or her potential. This budget category includes all instructional personnel and programs: regular school, special education, library, media, instructional technology, guidance, student health services, school psychologists, attendance and census costs, music, co-curricular activities, athletics, in-district and out-of-district pupil transportation, and staff development.				
Capital	\$13,994,519	\$14,419,813	-\$425,294	-2.95%
The capital component is intended to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff and the community. This budget category includes all personnel, equipment, supplies and materials for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. Any judgements and claims, refunds of real property taxes, and all payments of principal and interest on short- and long-term obligations are included in this category.				
Administrative	\$7,535,181	\$7,483,213	\$51,968	.7%
The administrative component is intended to provide the necessary support for district functions. This category includes all expenses for the Board of Education, superintendent, business office, auditor, tax collection, fiscal agent, legal services, personnel office, records management, public information, central printing and mailing, property and casualty insurance, school association dues, BOCES administrative share, and supervision of instruction.				
Total Budget	\$93,669,512	\$92,716,906	\$952,606	1.03%

Appropriations Comparisons

2008-2009



2009-2010



Major Influences on the 2009-2010 Budget:

- m** Staff reductions:
 - ✓ 8.1 secondary teaching positions
 - ✓ 3 elementary teaching positions
 - ✓ 3 special education teaching positions
 - ✓ 12 teaching assistant positions
 - ✓ 2 administrative positions
 - ✓ 2 support staff positions
- m** Increased employee benefit costs: \$245,542
- m** Increased BOCES costs: \$368,233
- m** All other areas: \$338,831

Total: \$952,606

Budget Revenues

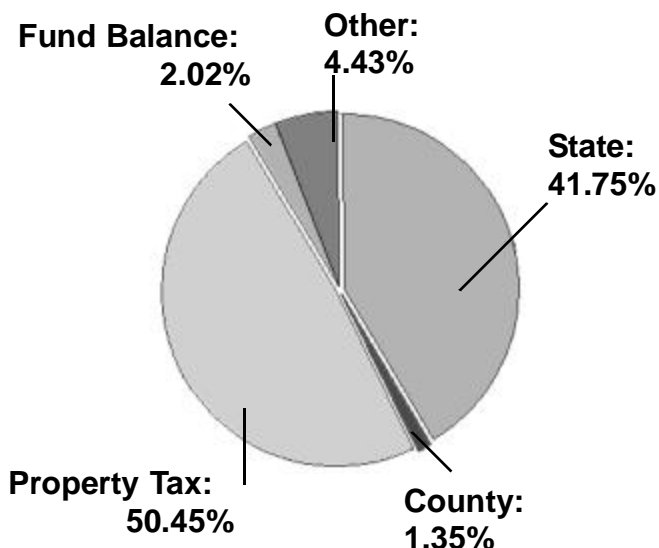
Non-Property Tax Revenues

Account	2008-2009	Estimated 2009-2010
In lieu of tax	\$3,111,996	\$2,929,412
County sales tax	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
Tuition -- other districts	\$50,000	\$50,000
Interest income	\$500,000	\$400,000
State aid (including BOCES aid)	\$34,821,741	\$35,200,000
State aid -- building aid	\$4,534,190	\$4,534,190
All other income	\$629,150	\$364,150
Subtotal	\$44,897,077	\$44,727,752

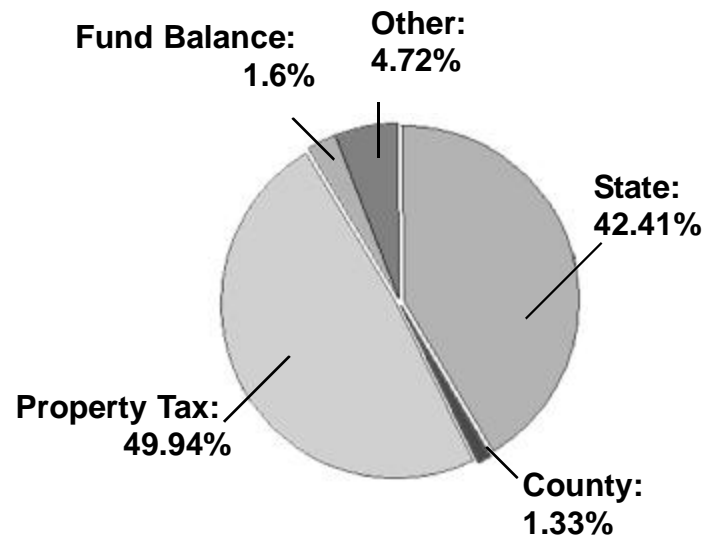
Real Estate Property Tax

Budget	\$92,716,906	\$93,669,512
Less: Estimated revenues	\$44,897,077	\$44,727,752
Less: Appropriated fund balance	\$ 704,329	\$1,500,000
Less: Appropriated fund balance (COPS Grant)	\$335,500	\$0
Less: Appropriation from reserves	\$0	\$661,760
Amount to be raised by tax levy:	\$46,780,000	\$46,780,000

Revenues: 2008-2009



Revenues: 2009-2010



Additional Proposition; Tax Impact

In addition to voting on the 2009-2010 budget proposal, district residents are also asked to vote on an additional ballot item:



Proposition Two: Annual Bus Purchase

Annual bus purchase and replacement program

The bus fleet consists of 84 large (54-70 passenger) buses, 25 medium (15-48 passenger and wheelchair capable) buses, and seven 8-passenger buses. Large buses are used for about 12 years, the medium buses for about 10 years, and the 8-passenger buses for about 7 years. In order to maintain a consistent replacement schedule, about 11 to 14 buses must be replaced per year.

When determining which buses need to be removed from service, age is the primary consideration. Due to weather conditions, the average life span of a school bus is 10 to 12 years in Central New York. After 10 to 12 years, buses require costly and necessary repairs to pass NYS inspection. It is not cost effective to repair these vehicles.

The district has to purchase buses annually in order to ensure that there are enough buses in operation every school day to run all of the routes, even when several buses are in the garage for maintenance. On any given school day, there are usually about 6 to 9 buses out of service in the district.

The district would like to purchase:

- * Eight 66-passenger buses
- * One 30-passenger/wheelchair bus
- * One 8-passenger bus

The total maximum cost of Proposition 2 = \$980,000

- State aid = \$705,000

Local cost = \$275,000

Estimated tax rate

In Lysander and VanBuren, the tax rate is projected to decrease by 1%. In Clay, the tax rate is projected to remain the same, depending upon the change in the equalization rate for Clay. As a result, the estimated tax rate will be as shown below. Please note that the district will not receive assessments and equalization rates for the towns of Van Buren, Lysander and Clay until August. At that time, **the actual tax levy and tax rates will be calculated.**

	Change in tax bill on a \$100,000 house, without STAR (no change in assessed value)	Change in tax bill on a \$100,000 house, with STAR (no change in assessed value)	Estimated tax rate decrease
--	--	---	--

Lysander and VanBuren	-\$23	-\$16	-1%
(assuming equalization rate remains at 100%)			
Clay	\$0	\$0	0%
(assuming equalization rate decreases)			

About equalization rates

An equalization rate represents the average level of assessment in each community. For example, an equalization rate of 50% means that, on average, the property is being assessed at 50% of its market value. The equalization rates are determined by the New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment. One of the most important uses of the equalization rate is to divide the tax levy fairly among municipalities in the same school district. In the Baldwinsville Central School District, the municipalities are the towns of Lysander, Van Buren and Clay.

About "STAR," the state's School Tax Relief Program

The state's School Tax Relief Program, or STAR, provides a basic exemption that allows property owners to receive a \$30,000 full-value exemption on their school tax bills. Senior citizens with incomes of less than \$36,400 gross are eligible for larger exemptions on a sliding scale; senior citizens with incomes of less than \$73,000 (not including IRA distributions) are eligible for the state's "enhanced" exemption of \$56,000.

Budget Highlights

The 2009-2010 budget proposal continues the district's efforts to move ahead in areas such as instructional technology integration, continued K-12 curriculum development, advanced data analysis for instructional decisions, Safe School legislation training, and professional development. In general, the budget seeks to support the district's long-range plan, which strives to provide quality academic programs, maintain facilities, and continue to provide a quality education while being fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

Program Highlights

m Continue to offer college-credit courses at the high school;

m Maintain all existing student program opportunities (instructional and extra-curricular);

m Continue to minimize the number of displaced students;

m Maintain effective class sizes;

m Support differentiated instruction to meet the learning needs of each student;

m Continue the district's data-analysis process; and

m Ensure continued improvement in teaching through the district's mentoring program and other professional development initiatives.

Technology

In the area of technology, the budget continues to support ongoing needs in the district to include general network hardware and software upgrades, centralization and virtualization of our server and backup capacity, the programmed replacement of older equipment and installation of various peripheral instructional equipment to include video projectors, SMART Boards, Symposiums, visual presenters, instructional television and other presentation devices.

Equipment and Maintenance

The budget supports the district's preventative maintenance program and the community use of buildings. It also supports necessary repairs, including roadway and parking lot repairs, mechanical and electrical repairs, HVAC upgrades, athletic field maintenance, and energy conservation upgrades. Examples of new equipment include a maintenance vehicle, athletic field equipment, and floor care equipment.

Contingent Budget

What happens if the budget is defeated?

State laws regarding defeated school budgets were changed in 1998 as follows:

- 1.) There is a limit of two votes.
- 2.) The Board of Education may adopt a contingent budget after the first vote, and it must adopt a contingent budget if the second vote does not pass.
- 3.) Under state law, a contingent budget would require budget cuts of nearly \$400,000 in equipment.

Copies of the budget can be reviewed in the district business office at 29 E. Oneida St., Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar

R Public hearing:
Tuesday, May 12
7:00 p.m., Baker H.S.

R Annual vote:
Tuesday, May 19
6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Baker H.S.

R Absentee Ballots:
Can be obtained by
calling 638-6055.

School Board Elections

The order of the candidates is **alphabetical and is not necessarily the order in which they will appear on the ballot**. Three seats on the Board of Education are up for election. They are for three-year terms. The three candidates who receive the three highest vote totals will be elected to the three-year terms.

Kevin Bernstein



Kevin Bernstein was elected to the Baldwinsville Central School District's Board of Education in May 2000. He is currently serving his third three-year term and is President of the Board. Previously, Bernstein held the position of Vice President. He serves on the Audit Committee, the Long Range Capital Planning Committee, the Facilities Committee and the Sustainability Committee. He has also served on a number of other committees during his tenure with the Board, including the Budget Committee, the Policy Committee, the Code of Conduct Committee, and the Technology Committee.

Bernstein is a member with the Syracuse-based law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, where he has practiced environmental, energy, and land use law for over 19 years. He has lived in the district for 17 years in the Baldwin Hill subdivision. His wife Lauri is a member of the Board of the Baldwinsville Volunteer Center. They have two children. Their daughter Erin graduated from Baker High School in June 2006 and is now a junior at the University at Buffalo. Their son Sean is a senior at Baker High School and plans on attending SUNY Oneonta.

Cindy (Vicat) Cronin



Cindy (Vicat) Cronin grew up in Baldwinsville and is a 1981 graduate of Baker High School. She holds a BA in international political economy from Wells College and a master of business administration from Syracuse University. Cronin lived in France for 10 years. She has 18 years of successful sales and management experience in the video post-production and telecommunications industries. Since 2003 she has been teaching French and business in the Syracuse City School District at Nottingham High School, where she chairs the International Business and Relations Career Academy and is a member of the School Leadership Team. She has also served on the Landmark Theatre Board. She lives in the Village of Baldwinsville with her husband Don, son Thomas Albouy, a senior at Baker High School, and her three-year-old daughter Carsyn.

Jim Goulet



Jim Goulet is a lifetime resident of Baldwinsville and a 1968 graduate of Baker High School. He holds a BS in resources management from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) where he served as student government president, 1971-72. He then received his teaching certification through SUNY Oswego.

Goulet was a science teacher in Baldwinsville for 32 years. He taught swimming lessons and served as a lifeguard for the Village of Baldwinsville and Onondaga County from 1967-1977 and then successfully coached the Baldwinsville varsity girls' cross country, indoor track, and spring track teams for 97 seasons.

He served for many years as the Onondaga High School League chairman for cross country, indoor track and track and as the Section III indoor track chairman. He is currently the head cross country coach for men and women at SUNY-ESF, a member of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals, the ESF Alumni Board of Directors and the OCC Arena and Athletic Center Task Force.

He has also served two terms on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Beaver Lake Nature Center and as the Central Region's head women's track and field coach for the Empire State Games for 27 years. He has been married to Jean, also a retired Baldwinsville teacher, for 36 years, and their sons, Eric and Dan, are Baker graduates.

School Board Elections

Christopher Patrick



Christopher Patrick, originally from Hershey, PA, has been a resident of the Baldwinsville School District since 2002 and has lived in Central New York since 1994. Patrick and his wife, Lynn, have two children attending school at Reynolds Elementary School and Baker High School. He is very involved with his daughters' activities at school and is a member of the Reynolds PTA.

Patrick is a veteran of the United States Navy. While serving as Reactor Operator Instructor, he completed his degree in human resources management from The New School for Social Research. He completed his tour of duty aboard the submarine, USS Atlanta, SSN-712 in 1994. He has been working at the RockTenn Solvay Mill for the past 15 years and is currently a shift manager.

Patrick looks forward to using his work and life experience in the service of the community as a member of the Board of Education.

Burrill Wells



Burrill Wells is a fifth generation Baldwinsville resident and a 1983 graduate of Baker High School. He holds a BA in French from SUNY Oswego and a master of public administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. In the summer of 1997 he interned for the president of the American Foreign Service Association in Washington, D.C. Wells has also lived and studied in both Europe and South America.

He previously served on the Baldwinsville Board of Education for 14 years (3 years as vice president). While on the Board, he was a member of several committees, including the Facilities Committee, the Inter-governmental Relations Committee, and the Policy Committee. In addition, Wells served one term on the Baldwinsville Village Board of Trustees where he was a member of the Public Works Committee and the Labor Relations Committee. He's a French teacher at Mexico Middle School where he's a member of the district's Technology Planning Committee and the Middle School Grading Policy Committee. Wells also has experience in the life insurance, labor and non-profit sectors. His former civic activities have involved groups such as McHarrie's Legacy and the Samaritan Center in Syracuse.

Gregory Wilcox



Gregory Wilcox is a graduate of Baker High School. He and his wife Kim, a substitute teacher in the district, have lived in Radisson for nine years. Their son attends McNamara Elementary School and his daughter attends Durgee Junior High School.

Wilcox is a strategic account manager with PTC based in Boston, MA and has ranked in the top 10% of over 300 account managers for the past four years. He is responsible for selling engineering and enterprise software solutions directly to manufacturing companies in Upstate New York and Vermont.

He received a bachelor's degree in management/general engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation he served in the U.S. Army as a Field Artillery Captain, a Platoon Leader, a Fire Direction Officer, and as a General's Aide.

In October, Wilcox was appointed to the Board to fill a vacancy.

Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote, you must be:

- 1.) Eighteen years of age or older;
- 2.) A citizen of the United States; and
- 3.) A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee ballots

Absentee ballots can be obtained by calling the district office at 638-6055, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

District Highlights



m Academic Excellence:

Student Performance on NYS

Assessments:

A majority of students in grades 3-8 score at or above a level 3 (latest available results are from the 2006-2007 school year).

ELA – Scoring at or above level 3

Grade 3 – 75%	Grade 6 - 77%
Grade 4 – 78%	Grade 7 - 70%
Grade 5 – 82%	Grade 8 - 72%

Math- Scoring at or above level 3

Grade 3 – 89%	Grade 6 - 82%
Grade 4 – 90%	Grade 7 - 87%
Grade 5 – 89%	Grade 8 - 75%

National Merit Recognition:

Geoffrey Groman was named a semifinalist in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. Five students were named Commended Students. They are Joshua Bean, Joellen Huebner, Nolan Miles, Chris Newman, and Alexandra Warren.

AP Scholars:

52 students from Baker High School earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their achievements on the college-level Advanced Placement exams last spring.

m Athletic Honors:

Scholar-athletes:

Nearly every varsity athletic team in Baldwinsville receives the Scholar/Athlete Team Award from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for a team composite grade average of 90 or better.

Regional Champions:

Boys' Varsity Soccer
Girls' Varsity Soccer
Girls' Varsity Volleyball

m Music Honors:

Each year, student musicians are invited to participate in the New York State School Music Association's festivals. This school year was no exception.

All-State:

Baker High School - 7

Area All-State:

Baker High School - 11
Durgee Junior High - 4
Ray Middle School - 2

All-County:

Baker High School – 37
Durgee Junior High - 20
Ray Middle School - 8

***The Beacon* is an official publication of the Baldwinsville Central School District.**

29 East Oneida St.
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
(315)638-6043
www.bville.org

Jeanne Dangle

Superintendent of Schools

Dawn Wilczynski

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Michael Shusda

Assistant Superintendent for Management Services

Michael Cuddy, Jr.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

School Board members:

Kevin Bernstein, Pres.

Victor Jenkins, Vice Pres.

Greg Hudson

Colin Kahl

Mark Manning

Lawrence Ordway

Joan Reeves

Shari Treichler

Gregory Wilcox

The Beacon

is written and produced by

Kelly Cary

School Information Officer

BALDWINSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

29 E. Oneida St.
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Non-profit org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Baldwinsville, NY
Permit No. 5

School News For
POSTAL PATRON
(dated material)

Learn Today Explore Tomorrow Create the Future