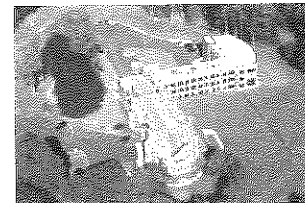


Allamuchy Township School

# THE BOARD REPORT



Mountain Villa School

Volume 5, Issue 3

April, 2011

## BOARD MESSAGE

The building of a budget is a very complicated process. It starts in early October. In order to guide the process, the Board establishes its budgetary goals from program, staffing and capital objectives to tax levy consequences. As the process moves forward, the Board's finance committee acts as the sounding Board for the administration. The politically current popular topics in public education focus on educational reform and controlling tax consequences to the homeowner. The issue of educational reform – student achievement- is a topic for another day. Yet, little discussion occurs about the specific challenges in achieving the goal of controlling the tax levy. The answer now is a hard and fast 2% limit on the increase in the tax levy. This year, our budget has no increase, in fact a slight decrease as outlined on page 2 of this report.

The tax levy cap comes with the burdens of mandated expenses such as special education costs required under federal law and curricular requirements under the core curriculum standards and mandatory testing. The district must also address unpredictable escalations in costs among which are utilities and contractually obligated health care insurance for employees. After making decisions on the uncertain future expenditures, the administration then must fit the budget within the various regulatory requirements, limitations and formulas. Very often these constraints are generic and applied to very large districts and small districts alike. These constraints rarely, if ever, allow for any flexibility which may be needed in order to solve budgetary problems in a creative manner.

Our budget has so little room for surprises or for discretionary expenditures. Most of the budget is built on three classes of necessary expenditures: 1) personnel for classroom instruction, personnel for maintenance of the facilities and for the required administrative functions-including Hack-ettstown High School tuition; 2) non-personnel costs for the maintenance of the facilities; and 3) educational supplies. Almost all of these classes of expenditures are established at the start of the budget process. The only way to pare down these costs would be to jeopardize educational programming or the integrity of the facilities.

The Board takes most seriously its role as the keeper of the delicate equilibrium between fiscal responsibility to the taxpayer and delivery of excellent educational services to the students. In these times, it is trying. We strive to educate our residents about our operations. We endeavor to find new ways to solve budgetary and educational challenges. It is important that we, as residents of Allamuchy, understand the complexity of the budget process, the innovative ways in which we as a community take on the budgetary challenges, and the high expectations that we have in educating our children. We have a wonderful atmosphere of learning and development in our schools. Although we are mindful of the requirements and role of the annual high stakes tests, we are proud that our caring and dedicated staff fosters a complete development of the intellect and character of our young people. It is that element of equilibrium that provides the counterbalancing objective for the difficult financial decisions. This newsletter will provide summaries and highlights of our budget. It is only a small part of the overall picture. We invite any inquiries about our budget. However, we ask that any consideration of the merits of our budget include a full appreciation of the strictures of the budget process and more importantly, the education we offer to our community.

# Allamuchy Township School District 2011-2012 School Budget

## 2011-2012 Budget

### Revenues

Local Tax Levy	6,769,586
State Aid	402,531
Miscellaneous Revenue	329,179

**Total (excluding Federal Aid) 7,501,296**

### Expenditures

Instruction Regular Program	1,679,336
Instruction Special Education	434,006
Basic Skills	35,380
Co-Curriculum	72,219
Tuition Hackettstown and Other	1,450,215
Health Service	110,500
Therapy Services	238,552
Guidance Services	45,010
Child Study Team	193,649
Curriculum Development	6,544
Library	25,928
Staff Training	4,000
Administration/Operations/ Legal	
Audit/ Professional Service	447,913
Business Office Services	106,152
Operation of Plant/ Maintenance	601,639
Transportation	525,575
Benefits	1,432,533
Capital Outlay	92,145
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,501,296</b>

## This Budget Features:

- All Programs Retained
- No Increase in Class Size
- All Extra Curricular Activities Maintained
- No Staff Layoffs

### Cost Savings Measures

- Shared Services with Surrounding Districts, CSA, Special Education
- Energy Savings Initiatives; Solar, Wind Turbines, Purchasing Consortium
- Provide Transportation Services to Nearby Districts
- E-Rate for Technology
- Revenue Initiatives, Full Day Kindergarten, PSD, Autism Classes
- Require base salary contributions for health premiums from all employees

### School Tax Decrease

*For a House Assessed at      \$\$ Decrease*

<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>-\$3.90</b>
<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>-\$7.80</b>
<b>\$283,000 (Town Average)</b>	<b>-\$11.04</b>
<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>-\$15.60</b>
<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>-\$19.50</b>

## Tax Impact—Tax Rate Reduction!!!

Local Tax Levy	6,769,586
Increase from 2010-2011 Budget	132,737
Percent Increase from 2010-2011 Budget	2.0%
Property Assessments: for each \$100,000 of assessment	
2010-2011 School Tax Rate	\$1.1992
2011-2012 Proposed School Tax Rate	\$1.1953
<b><u>Total Decrease</u></b>	<b><u>\$0.0039**</u></b>

\*\* With debt service, the reduction in rate is **-\$0.0061**

# ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL NEWS

## GOING GREEN AT ALLAMUCHY

Allamuchy Township School is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the NJ Audubon Society on *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program*. What does this mean? We will have an on-site Habitat Restoration Program. This project will provide breeding habitat for amphibians, foraging and nesting habitat for migratory birds, and foraging opportunities for pollinators, and will further enhance environmental education opportunities at the school. We will seed native warm-season grasses and wildflowers in two acres of the field, thanks to Larry Freeborn. We will also use native shrubs and a wetland seed mixture to enhance our property. In addition, nest boxes will be put up for the following species: bluebird, white-breasted nuthatch, American kestrel and/or screech owl. This will provide a wonderful outdoor education site for our students.

Our Hova-Bator is loaded with 120 quail eggs. We expect to see our baby chicks in mid-April. Our quail coop will be outfitted with a solar panel that will run the lighting and heating that is required for the quail. All labor and materials for this exciting project have been donated. The students are very excited.

In addition, we have submitted a PALS (PSEG - ANJEE Learners in Sustainability) Grant. This will be used to create an authentic learning environment for teaching environmental science, and more specifically sustainability and "greening practices." We will work in collaboration with Rutherford Hall and Centenary College. The pilot for this project will begin with our newly established Environmental Student Group, meeting after school. The PALS Grant focuses on a new project to study and reduce "buildings' carbon footprints" and to create media to share the process and subsequent outcomes. We will spend a two year period teaching children and educators how to assess a building's consumption and conservation in the areas of energy audits and green purchasing.

## ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**2nd Annual Golf Outing Monday, May 16, 2011  
Panther Valley Golf & Country Club  
Registration 10:00 am Lunch 11:30 am**

**Shot Gun Start 1:00 pm Dinner and AUCTION 5:30 pm**

Join us for a fun-filled day of golf at Panther Valley, featuring plenty of contests, a 50/50 raffle, and a chance to win a car from Johnson Dodge. Joel Shenman, PGA of America member, will be on hand for golf lessons and will be the featured speaker at the awards presentation. Fabulous gifts will be auctioned off at the dinner.

Money raised from the Golf Outing will benefit district-wide needs, including but not limited to contributions to aid in restoration projects and the establishment of historic exhibits at Rutherford Hall. In addition, a grant will be dedicated for the development of the "Wolfpack Initiative," a new curriculum program that will promote service learning, tolerance/diversity, and attitudes of caring and respect among the students in the Allamuchy school district. This initiative is an expansion of the current character education program.

Please support these efforts by participating as a golfer, joining us for the dinner and live auction, buying a tee sign for the course, contributing an item for auction, or being an event sponsor. These opportunities, as well as golfer registration, can be viewed at [www.rutherfordhall.org](http://www.rutherfordhall.org). Click on the (AT)Education Foundation tab, or reference the specific link to the website by pasting in <http://www.rutherfordhall.org/ateducationfoundation.html>. Check the site soon for a sampling of auction items and list of sponsors. For additional information, contact Christine Kensicki 908-269-5079 or Mike Virgil 908-850-4502. The ATEF meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Allamuchy Twp. School, 7:00 pm, room 149.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE ALLAMUCHY COMMUNITY Allamuchy PTO

Spring is the busiest season for the Allamuchy PTO, kicked off in early April by a successful Tricky Tray, the year's biggest single fundraiser. Profits from the 70's themed event will be dedicated to technology, starting with the installation of interactive white boards in the kindergarten classrooms at Mountain Villa.

### The PTO invites community participation in these upcoming events:

- 1) **Yard Sale:** Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. PTO contact: Jodi Bremner 908-850-1116. Reserve a table by May 6 with a \$20 donation (payable to Allamuchy PTO) to bring your own goods to set up and sell. Alternatively, you can donate your goods at no cost to benefit the schools, and receive a receipt of donation. DONATIONS will be accepted THURS. May 12, 2PM-4PM and FRI. May 13, 3PM-6PM at Allamuchy Township School, 20 Johnsonburg Road.
- 2) **Terracycle Day:** Sat., May 14. Stations will be set up at the Yard Sale. Get the list of "collectibles," including **Box Tops, Labels for Education, and TYSON A+ 1,2,3 bag tops** and box flaps, at [www.aes.k12.nj.us](http://www.aes.k12.nj.us); click on the PTO drop-down. PTO contact: Beth Gavin 908-852-5479
- 3) **Clothing Drive:** Mon.-Tues. May 16-17 (post-Yard Sale). Clothing, belts, shoes, linens, pocketbooks, stuffed toys only. "Leftovers" donated from the Yard Sale can be bagged. PTO contact: Jessica Taenzer 908-269-5569.
- 4) **Scholastic BUY ONE/GET ONE FREE Book Fairs:** Elementary Fair: May 19 - May 24 + "Books & Music" family event on the evening of the Spring Concert, May 18; Middle School Fair: May 26 - June 1. Books for summer reading for all ages will be featured, including many on Allamuchy and area high school reading lists.
- 5) **Monthly Market Day sale.** Register to support Allamuchy schools and order online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com). Pick-up: ATS cafeteria, 4:30-6:00 P.M. on designated dates. PTO contact: Claire Britt 908-850-9679.

### Other PTO-sponsored events for spring:

- 1) **Author-in-Residence.** On April 12<sup>th</sup>, New Jersey author Lisa Funari-Willever visited all grades to talk about being an author and about the inspiration for her NJ-themed chapter books and several picture books. Author/Illustrator-in-Residence is a popular assembly that allows the students to meet a notable literary personality whose books are usually available for purchase—and often autographed.
- 2) **Staff Appreciation:** Celebrating teachers and staff is two-tiered this year. In April, the Staff at both schools was honored with treats; the traditional staff luncheon will be on Thursday, June 9.

**The PTO applauds the Allamuchy O.W.L.S. once again!** The seniors continue their enthusiastic support of the PTO's Garbage -for-\$Green\$ initiative in conjunction with TerraCycle ([www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net)). To date, \$287.51 has been earned from recyclable trash gathered from school, families, and the community.



**School Election  
Wednesday April  
27th  
2 PM to 9 PM**

ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
20 JOHNSONBURG ROAD  
ALLAMUCHY, NJ 07820

Allamuchy Township School  
Grades 2-8  
Mountain Villa School  
Grades PK -1  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

FRANCIS GAVIN  
President  
JAMES BRITT  
Vice President  
WILLIAM CRAMER  
JOHN EGAN  
BRANT GIBBS  
ROBIN HUBBARD  
CHRISTINE KENSICKI  
MICHAEL PELLETIER  
MARY RENAUD

#### ADMINISTRATION

DR. TIMOTHY FREDERIKS  
Chief School Administrator  
DR. SETH COHEN  
Principal  
JANET MARTIN  
Director of Special Services  
PETER PEARSON  
Business Administrator



### State and National Historic Designations for Rutherford Hall!!

Many many hours of hard work by a dedicated team of talented professionals, all of whom donated their talents and time, have resulted in a very significant milestone for Allamuchy. At the February 24th meeting of the Council on Historic Places, Rutherford Hall was unanimously nominated and confirmed for inclusion on the NJ State Register of Historic Places. This designation is a first, required step for inclusion on the National Register, which will be completed this spring. Being named to this selective list acknowledges Rutherford Hall's role in the history and development of our town and region, and highlights the architectural significance of the building and its surrounding property. Inclusion on this list protects the property from any substantial future changes in the structure or property and further assures that the public will have access. An added benefit is eligibility for many more grant opportunities to restore and protect the property, reserved just for such historic parcels. Rutherford Hall now joins the Historic Freight Depot on Johnsonburg Road as Allamuchy's entries on this prestigious list. Special thanks to our nomination team, including architect Mark Alan Hewitt, historian Richard Crawn, Allamuchy Historical Society president Charles Fineran, historian Suzanne Issacson, Board of Education member, Mary Renaud and consultants Patrice Maillet and Amy Hufnagel. The application is quite lengthy and comprehensive, and the public presentation and defense very detailed. Their work on behalf of the citizens of Allamuchy is most appreciated by the Board of Education and the entire town.

Allamuchy Township School District  
PO Box B  
Allamuchy, NJ 07820

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