

Avoca Central School 2012-2013 Proposed Budget



BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Room 127

7:00 p.m.

BUDGET VOTE & ELECTION

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Auditorium Lobby

Noon - 8:00 p.m.

A Message from the Board of Education

The Board of Education is pleased to present the proposed 2012-2013 school district budget for your consideration. Our goal again this year was to prepare a budget that meets the educational needs of our students and continues to be cost effective for our taxpayers. This was a unique budget year for our district given the reduction in state aid we expect and the Property Tax Levy Limit imposed this year. We believe we have accomplished our goal in the budget that is being presented for your consideration.

Avoca, like many districts in Steuben County, is heavily dependent upon State Aid in funding education. Approximately 75% of our revenues come to us in the form of State Aid. We will see another decrease in the aid we receive for the 2012-2013 school year, and therefore it was necessary to prepare a spending proposal that includes reductions.

The major reductions will come in different areas of the budget. The first area is staffing. There are three known retirements from our staff at the end of this school year. Two of the three positions will not be filled next year due to budget reductions. The second area where expenditures will be reduced is in programming for occupational and special education students. We have fewer students attending the CTE programs at the Wildwood Education Center amounting to nearly \$100,000 of reduced costs. Additionally, we will be expanding our shared service offerings with the Prattsburgh and Hammondsport School Districts. This endeavor will result in savings to the district of just under \$100,000. The third area where you will see reduced expenditures is in the capital portion of the budget. The payments for the capital project which was approved by the voters in 1999 carried with it payments through the 2019 school year. The bonds became eligible for refinancing this year, and the Board made the prudent decision to do so. The interest rate on the original bond was 4.38% which was a very good rate for 2002. However, interest rates have dropped significantly during the past four years and the district is refinancing the bonds at the rate of 1.83%. This coupled with an early payment on a portion of the principal will save the district more than \$700,000 over the next seven years.

The board and administrators have also settled three contracts with bargaining units under which the employees' share of health insurance payments will be increasing. We have made further cuts across the board in materials and supply budgets as well. The budget being presented for approval represents a total **decrease** of 2.18%. The reductions in proposed expenditures that we have made will allow us to present a budget with a proposed tax levy increase of 1.9%.

We continue with our commitment to provide a quality educational program for our students, yet are mindful of our responsibility to the community for fiscal restraints. Please take a few minutes to review the enclosed material and attend the Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 8th. The Vote will be held on Tuesday, May 15th in the Auditorium Lobby.

PROPOSITION #1

Shall the annual budget of the Avoca Central School District for the fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$11,721,439 be adopted?

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

The administrative budget provides for all overall general support and management activities, including business office operations, payroll, purchasing, general administration, personnel, legal and auditing services.

| | 2011-12 BUDGET | 2012-13 BUDGET |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| BOARD OF EDUCATION | \$10,397 | \$9,000 |
| BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION | \$407,366 | \$416,167 |
| OTHER CENTRAL SERVICES | \$126,199 | \$126,205 |
| BOCES | \$169,940 | \$159,353 |
| CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT | \$33,483 | \$42,719 |
| SUPERVISION-REGULAR SCHOOL | \$195,438 | \$197,582 |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | \$181,314 | \$184,814 |
| | \$1,124,137 | \$1,135,840 |

PROGRAM BUDGET

The program budget provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the district's students including teacher salaries, benefits, supplies, BOCES services, interscholastic athletics and transportation.

| | 2011-12 BUDGET | 2012-13 BUDGET |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| INSTRUCTION | \$2,653,340 | \$2,748,582 |
| STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES | \$1,062,239 | \$896,494 |
| OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION | \$641,161 | \$531,449 |
| LIBRARY & MEDIA | \$86,648 | \$88,500 |
| COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION | \$284,722 | \$303,080 |
| HEALTH/PSYCHOLOGICAL/CO-CURRICULAR | \$194,122 | \$194,156 |
| INTERSCHOLASTIC PROGRAM | \$130,736 | \$131,576 |
| TRANSPORTATION | \$577,097 | \$570,837 |
| COMMUNITY SERVICES | \$10,500 | \$10,500 |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | \$1,968,758 | \$2,007,529 |
| | \$7,609,322 | \$7,482,702 |

CAPITAL BUDGET

The capital portion of the budget covers all operations and maintenance department salaries, benefits, supplies, utilities and all other expenses for the operation of the facilities. In addition, expenses for debt service (capital project loans) are part of this budget.

| | 2011-12 BUDGET | 2012-13 BUDGET |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| OPERATION OF PLANT | \$490,462 | \$475,468 |
| MAINTENANCE OF PLANT | \$99,410 | \$100,560 |
| REFUND ON REAL PROPERTY TAXES | \$2,500 | \$2,500 |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | \$163,113 | \$174,750 |
| DEBT SERVICE | \$2,519,200 | \$2,374,665 |
| | \$3,274,685 | \$3,127,943 |



QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

A person shall be entitled to vote in any school district election and in all matters placed upon the official ballot; and sign a nominating petition if such person is:

a citizen of the United States;
at least 18 years old;
a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the meeting .

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Voters who meet the following criteria need to fill out an Application for Absentee Ballot in order to be eligible to receive an Absentee Ballot. Applications are available in the District Office. Absentee ballots must be provided to any qualified voter who will be unable to vote in person due to:

1. illness or physical disability, hospitalization
2. incarceration
3. travel outside the voter's county or city of residence for employment or business reasons, studies, or vacation on the day of the election

The district clerk must receive applications for an absentee ballot at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or one day prior to the vote, if in person.

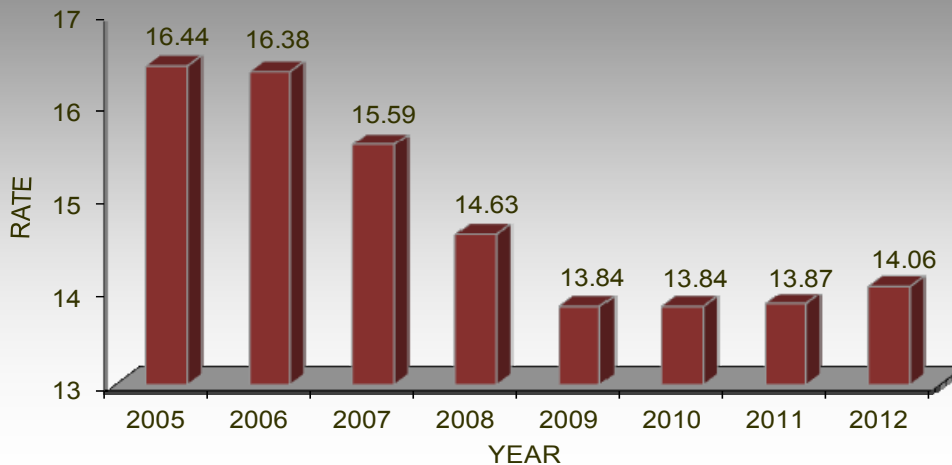
PROPOSED 2012-2013 BUDGET SUMMARY

| Component | 11-12 | 12-13 | % Change | % of Budget |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| Administrative | \$1,124,137 | \$1,135,840 | 1.04% | 9.67% |
| Program | \$7,609,322 | \$7,482,702 | -1.66% | 63.70% |
| Capital | \$3,274,685 | \$3,127,943 | -4.48% | 26.63% |
| | \$12,008,144 | \$11,746,485 | -2.18% | |

REVENUE

| | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | % of Revenue |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| PROPERTY TAXES | \$2,478,262 | 2,525,349 | 22% |
| STATE AID | \$9,114,632 | 8,806,486 | 75% |
| OTHER REVENUES | \$108,250 | 114,650 | 1% |
| DEBT SERVICE TRANSFER | \$150,000 | 150,000 | 1% |
| FUND BALANCE | \$157,000 | 150,000 | 1% |
| | \$12,008,144 | \$11,746,485 | |

The bar graph below shows the history of the tax rate in our district over the past 7 years. Each bar represents the tax rate per \$1,000 on a home assessed at its Full Market Value (100%). 2012-2013 is estimated.



The actual tax rate for each township will not be established until this summer. Each year, however, as a comparative analysis, we try to predict what the tax rate might be for a home fully assessed at its True Value. The chart above gives you what the actual tax rate came in at in August. The projected rate for 2011-2012 was \$14.04. In August the rate was set at \$13.87....17¢ less than projected! Using the best information available to us at the present time we believe the full value tax rate will be \$14.06. The actual rate will be based on actual assessed value.

PROPOSITION #2

That the Board of Education be authorized to expend up to \$150,000 from the existing Transportation Vehicle Replacement Reserve Fund and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District for the purchase of one (1) school bus; one (1) truck and to expend therefore a gross sum not exceeding \$150,000.

⇒ *The vehicles will be paid for with funds currently held in the Transportation Vehicle Reserve Fund. Consequently, the purchase of these items will not have an impact on the budget. One 66 passenger C-2 Freightliner Thomas will replace a 60 passenger C-2 Freightliner Thomas (Bus # 89) and the district will purchase a new 1 ton dump truck with a plow.*

STAR: SCHOOL TAX RELIEF

Basic Star Exemption

The Basic STAR works by exempting the first \$30,000 of the full market value of a home from school taxes.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| ASSESSED VALUE AT 100% | \$ 50,000 |
| BASIC STAR EXEMPTION | \$ 30,000 |
| NET TAXABLE VALUE | \$ 20,000 |
| TAX RATE | \$ 14.06 |
| TOTAL TAX | \$ 281 |

Enhanced Star Exemption

The Enhanced STAR provides a \$60,100 exemption for senior citizens with qualifying incomes.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| ASSESSED VALUE AT 100% | \$ 50,000 |
| ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION | \$ 60,100 |
| NET TAXABLE VALUE | \$ (10,100) |
| TAX RATE | \$ 14.06 |
| TOTAL TAX | \$ 0 |

Avoca Central School District
P.O. Box G ♦ 17-29 Oliver Street
Avoca, NY 14809
607-566-3000

US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 12
BATH, NY 14810

Board of Education

John Armstrong, President
Brian Patterson, Vice-President
Michael Slayton
Sean Turner
Karen Dgien

POSTAL PATRON
AVOCA, NY 14809

Superintendent of Schools

Richard Yochem

PROPOSITION #3

To elect one member of the Board of Education for a five year term commencing July 1, 2012 and expiring on June 30, 2017 to succeed Brian Patterson whose term expires on June 30, 2012.

Brian Patterson



Family: Married 21 years to Donna "Margeson" Patterson, father of Hannah Jo age 13 and Samuel Lee age 8. I have lived in the Avoca Central School District since October 1997.

Education: High School diploma from Green River High School in Green River, Wyoming. Served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps as a Heavy Diesel Mechanic.

Employment: Served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps, 14 years for the New York State Department of Transportation, 8 years Shop Supervisor creating preventative and corrective maintenance schedules for 200+ pieces of equipment.

Other/Previous Experience: I am a member of: First Baptist Church of Avoca, involved in the Awana Program teaching children the Word of God from 3 to 18 years old; 4 years Commander for the Awana Program; 4 years on the Christian Education Committee; and 3 years on the Deacon Board, helping to oversee and create budgets for the First Baptist Church of Avoca.

Reason for wanting to become a Board Member: Being involved in your community and especially in a child's life is priceless. I want to make sure that my children and other children have the tools and opportunities they need to become successful. Also I want to ensure the monies appropriated for the school are used wisely and effectively. The last few years were very challenging with several learning hurdles but that's how we grow. The government and the state are making it very difficult to run our schools efficiently, with unfunded mandates and funding cuts on top of that, making it difficult to create a budget. Thankfully the Board and the Administration over the past few years have planned very well for these difficult times. We are very fortunate to be where we are today.

I invite you all to come to the Budget Presentation on May 8th to hear how the budget comes together. Thanks to all of you who support Avoca Central School and I hope to continue to serve you in the future.