

# Fast Facts 2009-10 Budget

**Please Remember to Vote:**

**May 19, 2009 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

*Averill Park Central School District*

*Spring 2009*

## **Budget 2009-10 Overview No Tax Levy Increase**

School district residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 19, to vote on a \$55,950,456 proposed budget. The budget-to-budget increase from 2008-09 to 2009-10 is 1.03 percent, exclusive of change in debt service, but there is **NO INCREASE IN THE TAX LEVY**, due to aggressive cost-cutting measures, use of Federal stimulus and fund balance. The tax levy of \$24,048,007 is exactly the same as for the current year, an accomplishment that is attributed primarily to cost containment at the local level. A group of over 40 district stakeholders engaged in a budget review process since October to help the Board achieve this budget. The fiscal crisis facing our nation, state and local communities made budget development extremely difficult this year. Reductions in staff through retirements account for reduced expenses with the remainder coming through funding cuts distributed among schools and departments district wide.

These cuts involved difficult decisions, but they will not compromise the excellent educational opportunities offered to all students in the school district. Our strong academic standing benefits students and their families, and is a key element in maintaining property value in our area.

In addition to the budget, district residents will vote May 19 on propositions to purchase school buses and to elect two members to the Board of Education. ***Details are included in this newsletter and in the budget newsletter that will be mailed to district residents in May. For more budget information, please visit our website at [www.averillpark.k12.ny.us](http://www.averillpark.k12.ny.us)***

### **Budget Reductions:**

**A**ggressive budget cuts implemented through the school district's cost containment strategies trimmed the proposed 2009-2010 budget by \$1.8 million to yield a 1.03 percent increase in spending. Restructuring has occurred to assure that students continue to receive the outstanding education the community expects. We reduced non-personnel expenses by \$254,820.

### **Also on the ballot ...**

In addition to the budget vote, district residents will elect two candidates to three-year terms on the Board of Education.

Residents will also vote on:

Authorize the school district to spend an estimated amount of \$812,000 to purchase school buses. State aid would reimburse the district for 78 percent of the cost. The new buses are needed to replace aging buses with high mileage as part of the replacement plan authorized by the Board of Education.

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### **Budget Highlights:**

Averill Park's proposed budget includes funding to maintain existing programs and services in a difficult state and national fiscal climate:

- ◆ No staff layoffs. Staffing decreases were made possible through retirements.
- ◆ Educational programs remain intact.
- ◆ Provides academic support services including CARES, Alternative Learning and GED program.
- ◆ Continues to support district class size guidelines at the K-5 level.
- ◆ Offers essential student connections to the school community through extra-curricular clubs, athletics, visual and performing arts and student learning.
- ◆ Provides transportation services for all students, as well as maintaining the District's long-range bus replacement plan.
- ◆ Continuation of the multi-year technology replacement plan to upgrade and enhance the District's aging computers, software and related technology.
- ◆ Budget is below contingent cap.

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### **Budget Highlights**

2009-2010 Budget	\$55,950,456
2008-2009 Budget	\$53,475,535
Budget Increase	\$2,474,921
2008-09 Tax Levy	\$24,048,007
2009-10 Tax Levy	\$24,048,007

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### **QUICK FACTS:**

- Over 80 percent of Averill Park graduates go on to college.
- We have avoided over \$1 million in our utility costs over the last three years.
- Our 73 buses travel over one million miles in a single school year.
- 84 percent of Averill Park High School students graduated in four years with a Regents diploma and of those graduates, 42 percent earned Regents diplomas with advanced designation.