

FAQ Point Pleasant Schools...

Will current academic programs be maintained in the proposed 2011-2012 budget?

Yes.

Will co-curricular programs be maintained in the proposed 2011-2012 budget?

Yes.

What new curriculum initiatives are proposed for the 2011-12 school year?

A new Reading and Language Arts program will be phased in to the elementary school curriculum beginning with Kindergarten through Grade 3. After a comprehensive textbook review, which was conducted by both elementary schools, The Treasures Reading/Language Arts program was selected. This K-5 program offers materials carefully designed to prepare all students for success in middle school and beyond.

Additionally, Memorial Middle School is preparing to expand its mathematics program for Grades 7-8. The new changes would include a traditional block schedule format in which students would have the choice to take an Algebra Readiness Course in Grades 7-8 or Pre-Algebra and Algebra. To best prepare all of our students to be successful in passing the End-of-Course Algebra Test, the proposed curricular changes will give students adequate and additional opportunities to master the concepts necessary to achieve satisfactory results for this future graduation requirement.

These initiatives are in alignment with the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards. District personnel are also actively working with the Ocean County Curriculum Consortium to continue to develop the district's academic programs at all grade levels.

How much State Aid will our district receive for the 2011-12 school budget?

The district received an increase of \$356,024.00 in state aid, which is an increase of an amount equal to one percent of the original fiscal 2010 general fund budget.

Please keep in mind, though, that the district received a 27.3% reduction in state aid for the 2010-2011 school budget, which equated to \$1.9 million.

Is there anything that can be done to ensure that Point Pleasant Borough School District receives its fair share of state aid in the future?

The issuance of equitable funding for New Jersey school districts has been visited many times in a variety of forums. Currently the issue is being reviewed under the direction of the New Jersey Supreme Court. On January 13, 2011, the Court appointed a Special Master to conduct a fact-finding hearing on the impact of cuts in school aid under the School Funding Reform Act on educational programs across the state. The Court instructed Judge Peter E. Doyne, the Special Master, to issue a report on his findings to the Supreme Court by March 31, 2011.

The current legal action is compelled by Governor Christie's reduction of \$1.08 billion in state aid for 2010-2011. The Governor's aid cut reduced state funding below the levels required by the School Funding Reform Act formula for 2010-2011 and far below the funding amounts actually provided in 2009-2010, when the challenge was initiated.

The Special Master's findings, which are expected to be released in May or June, could provide much-needed relief to New Jersey school districts.

What percentage of the school budget is funded by property taxes?

77 percent.

Why does Point Pleasant receive less State Aid than the state average?

The average New Jersey school district receives approximately 41 percent of their budget from State Aid funding. In Point Pleasant Borough, however, State Aid represents only 14 percent of our district's total budget.

The disproportionate funding is largely due to the State's practice of providing over 50 percent of all State Aid to the 31 former Abbott Districts. The former Abbott Districts represent just 5 percent of the total number of school districts in New Jersey yet receive over half of all State Aid. Former Abbott Districts are considered to be poorer urban or special needs districts. Until the funding formula is changed in favor of an equitable distribution of State Aid funding, suburban middle- and upper-middle income towns like Point Pleasant will not get a fair share. For more information about Abbott Districts, please click on the following link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbott_District

How many students attend Point Pleasant Borough Schools?

Ocean Road Elementary School – 560
Nellie Bennett Elementary School – 744
Memorial Middle School – 696
Point Pleasant Borough High School – 1019
TOTAL = 3019

Will courtesy bussing still be provided in the proposed budget?

Yes. Twelve busses travel 74 routes transporting a total of 1,490 students or 49 percent of Point Pleasant Borough Schools' total student body to the district's four schools while also providing transportation services to Point Pleasant children attending Catholic school.

Over half of those students are considered by the State to be courtesy. Courtesy bussing is provided to students in kindergarten through grade 8 that reside less than two miles from the school. More than half of all students utilizing district transportation are considered to be courtesy. The district is required to provide transportation for students that reside more than two miles from school as well as for all special education students.

How many administrative positions are there in the district?

Seventeen. This is 15 percent less than the average number of administrators at similarly sized districts.

When I was in high school, there was only one principal and one assistant principal. Why do we need so many administrators?

The administrators throughout the district all have district-wide responsibilities. Eleven years ago, there were department heads who were 10-month employees and who were members of the Teachers Association who handled curriculum and teacher observations – and also had teaching duties. However this was not cost or managerially effective. Today, each principal and assistant principal at the high school and the middle school has a department responsibility, as shown below:

ADMINISTRATOR	DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY
Ms. Rocco High School Principal	Performing Arts Supervisor
Mr. Kenney High School Vice Principal	District World Languages Supervisor High School Social Studies Supervisor
Mr. MacDermitt High School Vice Principal	District Art/Business/Technology Supervisor
Ms. Moore High School Vice Principal	District Science Supervisor
Mr. Floyd Middle School Principal	Middle School Social Studies Supervisor
Ms. Hanna Middle School Vice Principal Ocean Road Elementary School Vice Principal	District Math Supervisor

Each administrator is a 12-month employee who has similar departmental responsibilities as well as managing student discipline and related issues. The principals have the added responsibility of supervising after-school activities. The district saved significant dollars due to the reorganization and was able to assign additional responsibilities to assistant principals. There are actually two less administrative positions than there were ten years ago.

Did the district eliminate the position of Assistant Superintendent?

Yes. The position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction was then established, and Mr. Robert Alfonse, a 30-year veteran of the Point Pleasant School District, was named to the position. He assumed the responsibilities for planning, design and coordination of district programs, coordination of professional development for staff, overseeing federal grant programs and serving as test coordinator for all mandated state testing.

In addition to these responsibilities, Mr. Alfonse serves as the district liaison to the state for a variety of committees, including the Ocean County Curriculum Committee. He also serves as the district Affirmative Action Officer.

By promoting Mr. Alfonse within the district and the subsequent promotions of district staff members, a total of approximately \$43,000.00 was saved.

What is the total amount of the 2011-12 proposed budget?

\$36,957,146

What is the total tax levy for the 2011-12 proposed budget?

\$29,037,267

How does the district spend compared to other districts?

Year after year Point Pleasant Borough continues to have the lowest Total Cost Per Pupil among all 23 K-12 Districts in Ocean and Monmouth County. Based on the most recent State Report Card information for 2009-10, Point Pleasant spent \$11,545 in Total Per Pupil Cost while Keansburg Borough, the highest, spent \$22,705. More importantly the district

continues to achieve advanced proficient and proficient in many areas of the State's academic assessments. According to the State's Comparative Spending Guide, Point Pleasant's total per pupil spending for 2009-2010 is 3rd lowest among 69 school districts with 1800-3500 students. Refer to the following link: <http://www.nj.gov/education/guide/2010/>.

The State has determined what the district should be spending based on State average cost to achieve and meet Core Curriculum Contents Standards, better known as "Adequacy". Do we spend above or below the State Adequacy amount?

According to the State Department of Education Software our 2011-2012 budget is \$1.7 million BELOW adequacy.

Does the district spend below the administrative cost limit set by the State?

Yes. The regional per pupil administrative cost limit is \$1,768. The district's 2011-2012 administrative cost per pupil is \$1,226, or \$542 below the state regional limit. Based on our total students, this amounts to \$1.6 million below the state limit.

According to the State's Comparative Spending Guide, the district ranks 7th lowest among the 69 districts our size in Total Administrative Costs. Does this include salaries of our administrators?

Yes. Additional information on administrative costs is provided including administrator ratios and median salaries. Keep in mind median salary does not differentiate from districts that have administrators with more years of professional experience.

Why is there an increase in Out-of-District Tuition?

Private schools for the handicapped are not held to the same spending growth caps as public schools. Private schools can even assess the district for back tuition if their actual costs come in higher than expected. Our Child Study Teams work proactively to keep as many students in district as possible. Many self-contained programs have been created within the district to keep students in our schools. Out-of-district tuition costs, including required service mandates such as a full-time aids and extended school year programs, can cost in excess of \$100,000. Transportation can cost up to \$150 or more per day. Out-of-district placements are very hard to predict and at any time students requiring these placements can move into our district.

When will the school budget be voted on and when will the polls be open?

This year the school election takes place **Wednesday, April 27th. Polls will be open from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm.**

If the budget is defeated, does the public get to vote on a revised budget?

No. There is only one opportunity to vote -- **Wednesday, April 27, 2011.**

What happens if the budget is defeated by the voters?

When a budget is defeated by the voters, it cannot be revised by the Board of Education. Once the voters defeat the budget, the town council will have the final determination as to what, if anything, will be cut from the budget.

Will items be restored if the budget is defeated?

No. A budget defeat will likely result in additional cuts being made. There is only one opportunity for the public to vote on the budget.

If I am not registered to vote, how can I do so?

Visit the voter registration link at www.pointpleasant.k12.nj.us for voter registration forms.

If I will not be available to vote on Election Day, April 27, 2011, what options do I have?

You can vote by mail. Please visit the voter registration link at www.pointpleasant.k12.nj.us and click on the link Vote By Mail Form.

Students away at college who are registered voters can vote by mail.