



THE EXCHANGE

WWW.BLINDBROOK.ORG

SPECIAL BUDGET NEWSLETTER - MAY 2007

Dear Resident:

On Tuesday, May 15th, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, voters will be presented with the 2007-2008 Blind Brook-Rye UFSD Budget adopted by the Board of Education in the amount of \$36,166,617 and a proposal to authorize an application for state EXCEL Aid and appropriation of surplus funds to renovate areas of the Ponterio Ridge Street School.

The bedrock and foundation of this proposed educational plan are increased academic rigor, improved student achievement and high accountability standards for all. We are aggressively advancing an instructional agenda that places students first and absorbs mandated operating costs, it respects taxpayers by proposing a tax levy increase of 5.1% and a homestead tax rate decrease of 1.1%.

To address an escalating enrollment of 2.8% for next school year, this budget plans to hire additional classroom and support service staff to serve 1,528 students in grades K-12. Our initial projections estimate continuing enrollment growth of 300 more students through 2012. The budget maintains Blind Brook as a high-performing District, competitive with some of the most attractive school systems in Westchester County. We encourage your involvement and ask you to contact the Superintendent of Schools or the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Facilities if you wish further information. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 15th. Our students, your children and grandchildren ask for no more. They deserve no less.

Monroe E. Haas, Board President
Dr. Richard C. Buzin, Board Vice President
Lawrence D. Engle
Deborah M. Faust
Steven M. Kaplan

Dr. Ronald D. Valenti, Superintendent of Schools



VOTE

Tuesday
May 15, 2007
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Ridge Street School
Old Gym

Public Hearing
Budget Overview

Monday,
May 7, 2007
8 p.m.

Blind Brook MS/HS Library

Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District
390 North Ridge Street
Rye Brook, New York 10573-1105
(914)937-3600
www.blindbrook.org

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2007-2008 BUDGET

WHAT WILL RESIDENTS BE ASKED TO VOTE FOR ON MAY 15TH?

PROPOSITION ONE: School District Budget

The proposed 2007-2008 Blind Brook budget is \$36,166,617, a \$2,122,688 increase over the 2006-2007 budget. The budget-to-budget expenditure increase is 6.2%. The estimated tax levy increase is 5.1% with proposed tax rates declining for homestead and non-homestead properties of -1.1% and -2.0%, respectively.

PROPOSITION TWO: Ridge Street Capital Improvements

In order to secure \$467,000 in additional Excel aid for capital improvements, voters must approve this \$750,000 Proposition for capital improvements to our elementary school. An additional \$283,000 from surplus funds will enable us to complete the first year upgrades without an additional tax levy. The \$2,700,000 Multi-Year Plan includes a 21st Century Science Lab, renovation of the

school library, new kitchen equipment, replacement of windows, ceilings and lighting and refurbishing of boys' and girls' toilets.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE VOTERS DEFEAT EITHER OF THE TWO PROPOSITIONS?

If voters defeat the school budget (Proposition One), the Board can resubmit the same or a different budget for a second vote. Adoption of a Contingency Budget requires an additional \$275,541 reduction in the proposed budget. These cuts would have to be made in school athletics, extracurricular activities and SMART BOARD acquisition since these are non-mandated programs.

If voters defeat Proposition Two to improve Ridge Street School facilities, the school district may lose the additional \$467,000 in Excel Aid and will be unable to begin the four-year plan.

VOTING INFORMATION

Voting Requirements

1. You must be a registered voter who is a United States citizen 18 years of age or older, and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

2. You need not register if, during the last four years, you voted in a general election in Westchester County, voted in a Blind Brook-Rye District election, registered with the Westchester Board of Elections or registered with the Blind Brook-Rye School District.

When and Where to Register

Until May 10, 2007 registration is continuous Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the District Clerk's office located at the Ridge Street School, 390 North Ridge Street.

Who Needs to Register

New Rye Brook residents and residents who have had a change in address must re-register by May 10, 2007.

When and Where to Vote

Voting will take place on Tuesday,

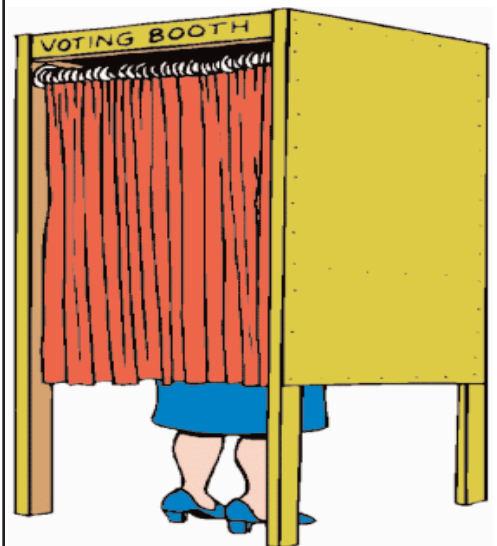
May 15th between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. in the Old Gym at the Ridge Street School, 390 North Ridge Street.

Absentee Ballots

If you will be out of the town or unable to vote in person on May 15, you can apply for an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots are available in the District Clerk's office or you may either call 937-3600 ext. 3032 to have an application mailed to you, come into the office to pick one up in person or download a copy from the district website at www.blindbrook.org. Absentee Ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 15.

Additional Voting Information

Voters will be able to access the League of Women Voters Smart Voter website: www.smartvoter.org in order to gain information online about upcoming school district elections, budget and proposition votes. Questions and comments may be addressed by calling 914-245-7540.



Candidates for the Board of Education:

Two Seats:
(one) 3-year term
(one) 1-year term

**Monroe E. Haas
Sheri Zarkower**

Note: the high vote getter gets the 3-year term.

The Proposed School Budget.....

Enhances student learning from grades K-12

Provides a balanced, cost-effective educational program

Seeks a 5.1% tax levy increase - one of the lowest in years



The budget benefits the Elementary School Students

- Broadens lunch time Chess program for up to 175 students
- Continues curriculum upgrades to English Language Arts (ELA) and Math
- Provides additional occupational therapy and psychological services
- Installs 65 new PC's
- Increases classroom SMART BOARDS from 28 to 38
- Expands Spanish FLES to grade 5

The budget benefits the Middle School Students

- Supports additional extracurricular activities: Destination Imagination, Chess Club, Cafeteria Murals
- Increases Math and Science Academic Intervention
- Provides for an Administrative Assistant to Principal
- Increases classroom SMART BOARDS from 17 to 21
- Replaces outdated PC's with 35 new ones
- Introduces Modified Boys Lacrosse

The budget benefits the High School Students

- Creates a student centered graphic arts lab for the high school Yearbook, FOCUS, AP Art and the District TV Studio
- Renovates MS/HS Library to expand technology and incorporate open computer lab.
- Increases classroom SMART BOARDS from 22 to 28
- Installs 50 new PC's
- Expands athletic trainer to full time
- Increases Lacrosse to Varsity Girls
- Introduces Junior Varsity Golf
- Adds an additional part-time Security Monitor



Destination Imagination Champions: Congratulations to the Tic Tac Turquoise & Indigo Teams



The Lady Trojans - Girls' Varsity Basketball Team
Congratulations to the Regional Champions!

Ridge Street will be finalized for this coming September 2007.

The Soccer and Baseball fields at Ridge Street will be completed for use this fall. All high school fields (Football, Soccer and Baseball) will likewise be completed for fall 2007 athletic events.

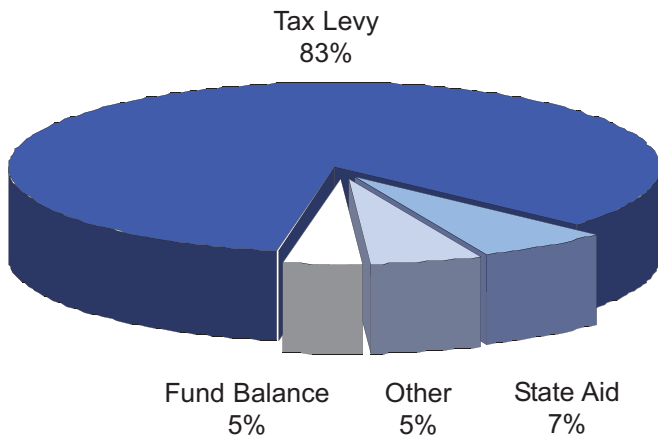
The proposed \$2,700,000 Multi-year Plan for Ridge Street upgrades will help continue the momentum of the current project.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

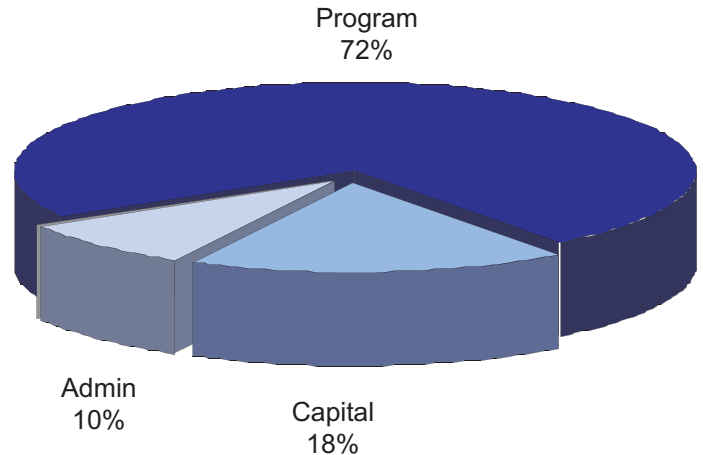
As promised, construction at Blind Brook MS/HS of the ten classrooms, science labs and separate middle and high school lunchrooms were completed this past September. Conversion of the old administration areas into two new classrooms for

BUDGET SUMMARY

2007-2008 Sources of Revenue



2007-2008 Component Expenditures



SUMMARY OF REVENUES

	Approved Budget <u>2006-07</u>	Proposed Budget <u>2007-08</u>
Tax Levy	28,561,860	30,025,106
Appropriated Surplus	1,300,000	1,500,000
PILOT	764,334	753,813
State Aid	1,865,499	2,204,042
Rentals	101,504	118,897
Tuition Payments	200,000	175,000
County Sales Tax	270,000	280,000
BOCES Aid	252,744	214,597
Supply Aid	117,988	122,662
Interest Earned	125,000	200,000
Refunds of Prior Years	-	-
Miscellaneous	250,000	272,500
Due from Debt Service Fund	235,000	300,000
TOTAL REVENUES	34,043,929	36,166,617

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

	Approved Budget <u>2006-07</u>	Proposed Budget <u>2007-08</u>
Board of Education	44,912	45,602
Central/Business Administration	811,803	875,657
Legal, Personnel, Public Info	197,458	197,850
Plant Operations & Maintenance	2,465,915	2,694,651
Central Services	324,859	345,357
Curriculum & Instruction	116,447	220,139
Supervision & In-service	1,318,808	1,497,690
Regular Instruction	11,173,165	11,558,477
Special Services	3,505,353	3,880,062
Libraries & Technology	1,292,069	1,413,800
Guidance & Health	1,300,526	1,464,221
Co-curricular, Inter-scholastic	720,269	813,988
Transportation	916,500	969,216
Employee Benefits	6,390,512	6,822,777
Debt Service	2,994,116	3,180,797
Interfund Transfer	123,717	27,833
Community Service	8,500	8,500
Contingency	339,000	150,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	34,043,929	36,166,617

A more detailed description of the 2007-2008 Budget, including the Blind Brook-Rye UFSD Academic Report Card and a Summary of Administrators' Salaries, is available for review online at: www.blindbrook.org and in the business office.



Blind Brook Public Schools
SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

THE EXCHANGE

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Board of Education

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