

Northern Highlands Regional High School

Allendale • Upper Saddle River • Ho-Ho-Kus • Saddle River • April 2011

www.northernhighlands.org



PROPERTY TAX IMPACT BELOW NEW 2% CAP

The budget recently approved by the Board of Education, while staying well beneath the state's permissible tax increase of 2%, reflects a commitment to preserve the best of the school's curricular and co-curricular programs in these difficult economic times. The increase for next year is 1.06%, about half of what the state allows, yet ultimately no significant cuts have been made to staffing or offerings.

Northern Highlands enjoys a well-earned reputation as one of the best high schools in the state of New Jersey, and it is no secret that the quality of our schools has a direct and positive effect on property values. It is not uncommon to see Northern Highlands mentioned by name in the many property listings advertised by local realtors. And the budget the Board of Education has approved will preserve the very best of what Highlands has to offer - a renowned college preparatory curriculum delivered by talented and enthusiastic teachers. The statistics speak for themselves: last year, 97.2% of our graduates chose to continue their studies at a two or four year college and many were accepted to their first choice schools. In addition, our academic and athletic co-curricular program continues to achieve recognition and awards at all levels - county, state, and national.

This year, the district lost 100% of its state aid, a crush-

ing blow that added into an eventual budget cut of 1.7 million dollars. It is difficult to comprehend that our communities send tens of millions of dollars to Trenton and receive little or nothing in return, and these cuts made it particularly difficult to continue offering what we had before. Fortunately, in February, the state announced it would restore a portion of our school aid, making it possible to restore some teaching sections as well as a full time science teaching position that had been lost. In addition, the school will be able to replace a school bus that had been decommissioned. Although this restoration of state aid is slight and does not bring us back to our previous level, it has helped us, especially as we prepare for increased enrollment.

Information in this newsletter outlines just a few of the cost-saving initiatives we have implemented to keep our tax levy low, even while we are confronted with increases in many budget areas. We have decreased our administrative costs, now the lowest of central and northern New Jersey's regional high schools. Our entire staff is committed to delivering a quality education in the most thorough and efficient manner. With your support, we can continue our efforts in making Northern Highlands the best, most positive, experience for our students and, justifiably, the shared pride of our communities.

VERY IMPRESSIVE . . .

Highlands Voices won the Mid-Atlantic International Championship of High School A Cappella.

On April 15, Voices will travel to New York City to compete in the International Championship. Visit our web site for more information.



Vote

Annual School Board Election

and

School Budget Vote

Wednesday, April 27th

12pm - 9pm

BUDGET BRIEF

- ❖ Tax levy increase of 1.06%
- ❖ Proposed budget is only 1.5% greater than our current school year budget
- ❖ Includes a partial restoration of state aid totaling \$219,000
- ❖ Refunding \$9.6 million of bonds resulted in a \$329,744 savings
- ❖ Reflects a \$100,000 savings due to rebidding transportation routes
- ❖ Budget includes the return of a science teaching position, cut last year
- ❖ Includes replacement of a decommissioned school bus
- ❖ Reflects an increase in Special Education costs
- ❖ Administrative costs are *below* the state mandated cost per pupil, and we are the lowest of all regional high schools in central and northern New Jersey

BUDGET PRIORITIES

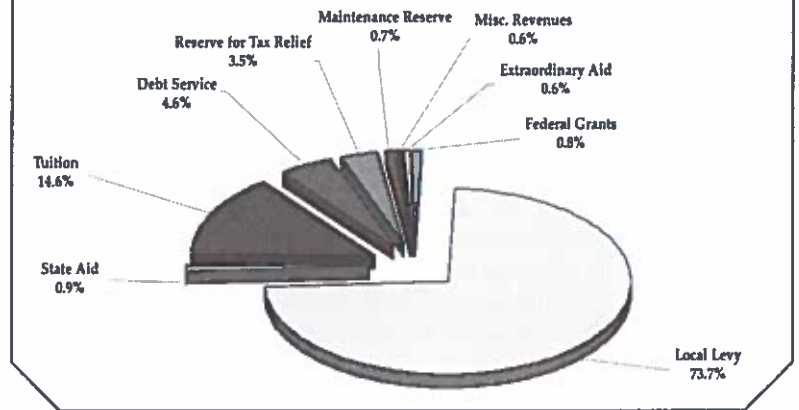
- ❖ Maintaining Appropriate Class Size
- ❖ Curricular Offerings
- ❖ Instructional Supplies
- ❖ Career and College Counseling
- ❖ Technology Maintenance and Upgrades
- ❖ School Security, Health and Safety
- ❖ Professional Development
- ❖ Co-Curricular Offerings
- ❖ Facility Maintenance

A Continuing Challenge to Public Education: State Aid

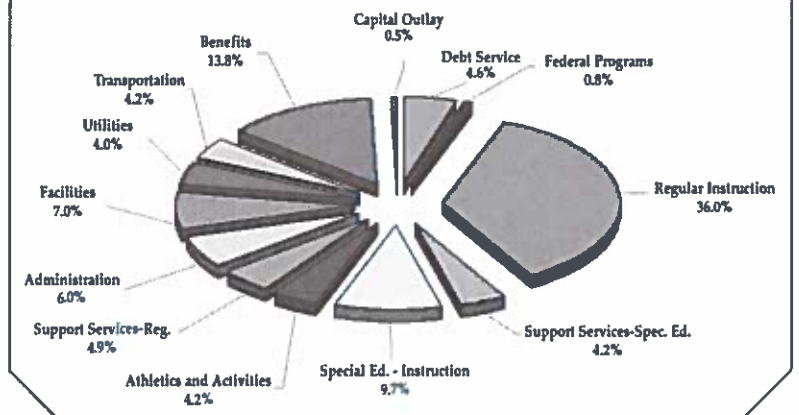
The loss of state aid to school districts presents a serious challenge to public education. The public policy of school funding is being reassessed in the legislature and courts. School funding is in a state of flux. To address this fiscal instability, Northern Highlands has implemented major fiscal initiatives as part of a long-term financial plan.

Last Fall we established a Maintenance Reserve to address ongoing capital maintenance of our facilities for the next seven years. The reserve will allow us to offset 15% of our estimated annual capital maintenance cost over that period. The proposed 2011-2012 budget reflects use of that reserve in the amount of \$170,000 and effectively provides tax savings for our communities. On March 24, 2011 we completed refunding of \$9.6 million of bonds, which resulted in tax savings of \$329,744, spread over three years. Our proposed budget reflects \$112,000 of that tax savings. This budget and these initiatives are designed to support and preserve the Northern Highlands educational experience through prudent financial management and planning.

2011-2012 Revenues



2011-2012 Appropriations



TAX LEVY

Tax Levy and Debt Service 2011-2012	\$20,071,953
Increase \$	\$ 209,774
Increase %	1.06%

IMPACT OF 1.06% TAX LEVY INCREASE

Allendale:

Average Home Assessment:	\$540,942.00
Decrease per month in dollars:	\$ -7.63

Upper Saddle River:

Average Home Assessment:	\$755,280.00
Increase per month in dollars:	\$ 13.13

DECA - A Tradition of Excellence

DECA is a nationwide organization with a mission to prepare young people for careers in Marketing, Finance, Hospitality and Management. More than 5,000 high schools have DECA organizations that draw 185,000 student participants. DECA members participate in competitions at various levels which culminate in an international conference to be held this year in Orlando, Florida.



PJ Abplanalp, Caroline Broder, Valerie Sydnor & Corey Glass accepted awards for top 2 teams overall in Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making

Student participation in DECA is a popular tradition at Northern Highlands. We are over 300 students strong and we are the largest chapter in the state. Our students have a long history of success at both the state and national level.

Supervisor Robert Petrosino was recently reassigned and now serves as the Supervisor of our Business Education Department. Below, you will find a note Mr. Petrosino sent to our staff following the return of 176 Highlands students from the DECA State Championships held in Cherry Hill, NJ on March 6-8. This was his first state DECA awards ceremony. We would like to share this with community members as it gives a first hand, vivid picture of the energy and passion that characterize the competition. It also offers a heart-felt salute to Mr. Sandy Helfand who came to Northern Highlands in the 1990s as a substitute teacher and became an influential and memorable educator in his own right as the chapter's advisor.

Sandy served as the lead advisor to the DECA club. Sandy's co-advisors, Mr. George Carbone and Mrs. Jennifer Lederman, are long-time members of the Business Department who worked closely with Sandy.

For the past sixteen years Sandy Helfand gave a very large part of himself to the organization and the students of Northern Highlands. Despite battling pancreatic cancer for the final three years of his life, Sandy was determined to accompany the Highlands students to Cherry Hill. Mr. Petrosino's description goes a long way towards explaining why a man, late in life and desperately ill, was so focused on the conference and the world the students and advisors experience as part of this remarkable organization.

(E-Mail Date: March 9, 2011)

"A few words about the DECA trip to Cherry Hill that stretched from Sunday morning to Tuesday afternoon –

On the morning before our trip back home there was a closing awards ceremony attended by the more than 1,200 students representing DECA organizations from across the state, their faculty advisors and chaperones. The ceremony is held in a single, huge conference hall. The action on the stage is complemented by wall-mounted TV monitors that provide a clearer view for those seated in the back. Large, powerful speakers relay the announcements and awards winners to the watching audience. Students sit in assigned sections with their teams, the lights are turned down, music plays and the roll call of those being recognized as the top performers are called to the brightly lit stage where they receive medals commemorating their performance. At that point, the real tension sets in as the third place, second place and first place winners are identified in turn.

When a name is called as a top three finalist, the students from the school they represent erupt, rising to their feet and cheering loudly. Participants then return to the audience enveloped in hugs from their advisors and team-mates, backslapping and fist pounds. The exuberance of the students and their advisors is stunning – especially to a first-time observer like myself. What was also stunning was the dominance displayed by the Northern Highlands team.



Joanie Kim, Ashley Holleran & Nicole Sirubi practice their presentation for the Learn & Earn Chapter Project which earned 1st place overall at the NJ DECA Conference

Watching our students rising and falling back to their seats again and again, as the awards emcee announced event after event always followed by the refrain of "Northern Highlands" – "Northern Highlands" – "Northern Highlands", I was reminded of the action of pistons in a firing engine – it was machine like, rhythmic, constant.

In all, 118 Highlanders received a total of 241 trophies and medallions and 52 of them qualified for the International Conference that will be held in Orlando, Florida in May. Fifty-two! Most of the teams competing at the tournament did not have 52 students in their entire contingent. My conversations with students made clear to me how much time and effort their teachers put into preparing them for the stunning level of success Northern Highlands' students experienced yesterday and over the many years they have been competing in this remarkable organization. And, despite all the victories and euphoria, all of this was marred by sadness.

Earlier in the trip, at the first meeting of the 1,200 students and their advisors, time was devoted to honor those who, in their capacities as teachers and advisors, had made great contributions to the DECA program. The final name called was Sandy Helfand's. The woman who spoke provided a wonderful account of Sandy's work and long history of involvement with DECA. She told the audience how pancreatic cancer took him just weeks before the tournament. When she closed, the entire audience rose to their feet and a long period of sustained applause followed. When they sat, an obviously moved Jennifer Lederman and George Carbone were at the podium. George only said a few words sharing with the audience how much Sandy wanted to be a part of this conference which should have been his final one.

He would have been very proud of what his students and his colleagues accomplished."

Hats off -



Morgan Lamb accepted a role play award and a finalist medallion in the Principles of Marketing Event



Northern Highlands will host a Memorial Service for Sandy Helfand on May 21, 2011 at 12:30.

Northern Highlands Regional High School
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011

Hours – 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM

Voting Places (*Same as Municipal Elections*)

ALLENDALE

District 1	Firehouse
Districts 2 & 4	Guardian Angel Church
District 3	Borough Hall (Council Chamber)

UPPER SADDLE RIVER

Districts 1 & 2	Cavallini School
District 3	Borough Hall
Districts 4 & 5*	Upper Saddle River Public Library

*Change in Polling Place!



Postal Patron
Saddle River NJ 07458

Northern Highlands Regional High School District
Hillside Avenue • Allendale, New Jersey 07401
www.northernhighlands.org

Board of Education

Barbara Garand, *President*

Carolee Cravina, *Vice President*

Jean Borzilleri

Colleen Federer

Dr. Robert Hands, Jr.

Lori Loughnane

James Mulanaphy

Ann Pagano

Gail Trumbetti

Robert C. Wei

Henry Senger, Saddle River Representative

John J. Keenan
Superintendent

Roderic McLaughlin
Business Administrator/

Secretary to the Board of Education

the highlands report

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4
Allendale, NJ
07401

CONGRATULATIONS!



- ❖ Boys and Girls Swimming - League Champions
- ❖ Girls Swimming - Bergen Record Team of the Year
- ❖ Coach Tom Viscardi - Bergen County Swim Coach of the Year
- ❖ Boys Basketball - Bergen Invitational Tournament Champions
- ❖ Wrestling - League Champions
- ❖ Coach Rick Babitts - District Wrestling Coach of the Year
- ❖ Boys Bowling - League Champions

Girls Fencing –State Champions two consecutive years



2011 Girls Fencing -
League, District and State Champions

CHINESE LANGUAGE COMPETITION

On March 19, a team of Highlands students studying Chinese competed in the first annual Chinese Language Competition for NJ high school students at the Confucius Institute at Rutgers University. To prepare for the contest, students and their teacher, Mrs. Xin Cai, prepped after school for several weeks, and their efforts were recognized as they came in 3rd place!

The purpose of the competition is to promote quality Chinese language and culture education in New Jersey high schools. All non-heritage Chinese learners from New Jersey high schools were invited to participate, and each team was limited to 3 students led by their Chinese teacher. Teams visited different 'stations' and completed tasks as requested. Judges gave a score to each team, based on their performance.

Congratulations to Chinese 3 Honors students Sonya West and Maria Ugarte, and their teammate Stephanie Kerner, a student in the Chinese 2 Honors class, as well as to their teacher, Xin Cai, on their outstanding performance.



EDISON INVENTION CHALLENGE

On Saturday, March 26 at NJIT, students from the *Future Architects and Engineering Club* along with advisors Al Mugno and Purvik Patel, competed in the Inaugural Thomas Edison Invention Challenge. Club members included Yuyong Lee, James Donahue, Adrianna Rodriguez, Jonathan Barrios, Kimberly Crowley, Jonathan Morcos and Laura Tantillo. Northern Highlands placed second competing against schools from across the state. Students were so successful that they are now pursuing a patent for their invention. The designs were judged by NJIT

professors, an engineer/designer from BEA Systems, as well as a retired engineer and inventor holding 8 invention patents. Students were judged on their engineering documentation log book as well as several presentations. Students presented before a panel of judges and the entire group of competitors and parents (about 100 people). Another presentation regarding their invention design was conducted privately in a separate interview with each judge. Students worked tirelessly for a month and a half since Mr. Patel and Mr. Mugno first introduced the competition to the club. The competition rules were open ended and students were charged with using green technology to power their device: wind, solar or a fuel cell (water). Their invention idea is a beach/pool umbrella that houses flexible solar (photovoltaic) panels on the canopy that would store the energy in batteries in the shaft of the umbrella. The umbrella would then be placed into a docking station where it would transmit the energy back into the power grid or for use at the facility. This could be the next revolutionary invention to help harness our energy needs!

Hall of Fame Inaugural Induction set for May 22 in Washington Township

Visit our web site for ticket information

The Purpose of the Northern Highlands Hall of Fame

To honor Northern Highlands' students for their outstanding achievements; individuals who are deemed to have had a major and lasting contribution to the school program; and alumni who have done something distinctive in or for society. The Northern Highlands Hall of Fame will recognize these accomplishments as a source of pride for the school community and as an inspiration to others.

- Randy Pendergast (1969)
New Jersey State Gymnastics Champion
- Roger Kreutzer (1971)
All State Baseball
- Beth Beglin (1975)
Olympic Bronze Medalist Field Hockey
- Margaret Juntwait (1975)
Distinguished Alumna
- Clem King (1976)
All State Golf
- Jim Comey (1978)
Distinguished Alumnus
- Margaret Basa (1984)
All American Soccer
1986 Field Hockey Team
New Jersey State Group 3 Champions
- Jen Minkus (1988)
All American Soccer
- Pam Healy (1988)
All State Soccer & All County Basketball
- Gerald Hopkins
Founding Superintendent
- John Mintzer
Principal 1965-1992
- William "Mickey" Corcoran
Athletic Director & Basketball Coach
- Fred Conrad
Football Coach & Athletic Director

All Residents Invited to Arts Night! New Art Gallery to Open April 20



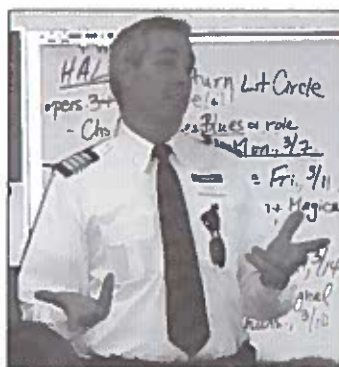
All residents are invited to a gala Arts Night at Northern Highlands on Wednesday evening, April 20, from 7-9:30 p.m. The night will mark the opening of an art gallery for student art on the 2nd floor of the library.

During Arts Night visitors will see actors doing short scenes and sketches, a cooking demonstration, students performing their own music, the award-winning a cappella group "Voices," the Wind Ensemble, videos produced by Television Production students, and Creative Writing students reading their work, some of which has received awards from colleges. Art will be displayed throughout the building.

There is no admission charge for the evening, and light refreshments will be provided by the Music and Performing Arts parents group.

Come see the superb creative work that Highlands students produce!

CAREER DAY



Jet Pilot Keith Yaddaw

We would like to extend a special thank you to the 61 members of our community who volunteered their time to make this year's Career Day a huge success. These community participants donated their time and expertise for an entire morning of presentations. Students were able to attend two sessions of their choice, with speakers ranging from an FBI agent to a neurosurgeon to a Tony Award nominated director.

Even in this age of instant access to all sorts of career information, the personal experience and opportunity for students to interact with professionals was priceless.

Next Stop Broadway . . .



Suessical - the Musical

Thank you to our Home & School Association for contributing to the cost of this publication.