

Northern Highlands Regional High School

Allendale & Upper Saddle River, New Jersey • April 2010



\$1,713,587 CUT FROM HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET

As you have read in the news, our schools are facing an unprecedented financial crisis. New Jersey, confronting a massive budget shortfall, drastically cut state aid to schools, and in our case, state aid has been eliminated entirely. Our Board of Education, committed to preserving our overall program during these difficult times, unanimously approved a school budget supporting this goal, which will be put up for vote on April 20.

In the past two years the state has withheld \$1,041,846 from our school district. This loss of state aid, combined with increased expenses, has forced Northern Highlands to make cuts for the 2010-2011 school year totaling \$1,713,587.

Seven teaching positions will be eliminated in the areas of Social Studies, Spanish, Science, Physical Education, Art, Special Education, and English. Still more cuts include reducing positions to part-time in the areas of Music, Math, and Guidance; the Library staff and some members of our Child Study Team will likewise be reduced to part-time positions. We have cut

support and custodial staff.

Yes, this will mean an increase of class size as well as a reduction of services; however, we are cutting from a position of strength. Of the six regional high school districts in our county, we have the second lowest student/teacher ratio (see Chart A, page 3). Maintaining an appropriate class size always has been one of our highest priorities because we know - and statistics show - that smaller class size is essential for learning and achievement. In fact, our statistics showing high student achievement in all areas is directly related to the program we can deliver with the class size you have always supported.

You have likewise always supported our after school programs - our clubs, activities and athletics - knowing the far-reaching benefits of involvement in fostering values such as teamwork, initiative, and civic responsibility. The Board is committed to maintaining our full extracurricular program and the school will be able to offer the same range of activities, with

(continued on page 2)

On March 27th, Student Athletes Volunteered Their Time During Our Annual Spring Cleanup



Vote

**Annual School Board Election and School Budget Vote
Tuesday, April 20th
12pm - 9pm**

\$1,713,587 CUT FROM HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET *(continued from page1)*

some minor reductions, if our budget is approved.

In addition to making deep cuts to the supplies and maintenance budget, the Board scrutinized administrative costs, costs we have been cutting for the last several years, as we eliminated an Assistant Principal and merged the supervisory responsibilities of Guidance with our Special Services Supervisor, and maintenance with our Athletic Director. Of the six regional high school districts in the county, we have the fewest administrators, ranking the highest in student/administrator ratio and the lowest in administrative costs. Even with this record of keeping administrative costs low, however, the Board decided to not replace our retiring Mathematics and Business Education Supervisor.

Northern Highlands enjoys a well-earned reputation as an outstanding high school. Our instructional program is one that others seek to emulate. Colleges and universities accept our students based on our rigorous academic offerings. While part of that success comes from having an outstanding leadership team and an engaged Board of Education, we know it is our teachers who work to build relationships with their students and to provide them with individual attention that nurtures growth and learning. The Northern Highlands Regional High School Board of Education is committed to maintaining the quality of our academic and co-curricular programs.

Our 2010-2011 school budget, as proposed, accounts for a 3.19% increase to our local tax levy.

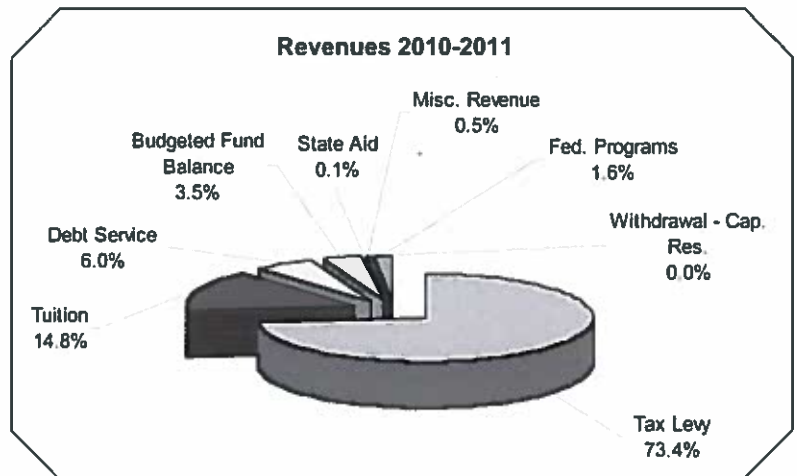
BUDGET BRIEF

- ❖ Proposed budget includes reduction of \$1.7 million in staff and other expenditures
- ❖ Loss of \$220,234 in state aid for FY 2009/10
- ❖ Loss of \$821,612 in state aid for FY 2010/11
- ❖ Total General Current Expense Budget decrease of \$352,409 or 1.48%
- ❖ Tax levy increase of 3.19%
- ❖ Administrative costs are below the state mandated cost per pupil, and we are the lowest of all regional high schools in Bergen County

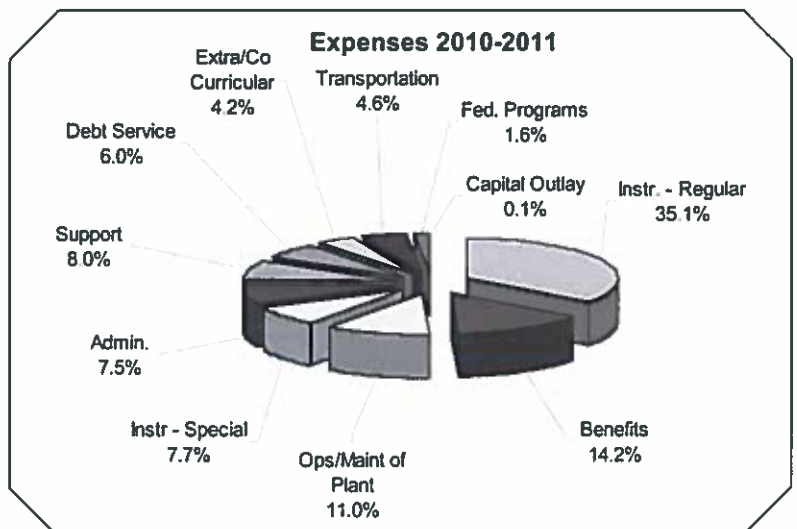
OTHER FAST FACTS

- ❖ Decreases in Current Expenditures in all of the following functions:
 - 1) Instruction – Regular = (433,237)
 - 2) Operations of Plant = (396,358)
 - 3) Extra & Co-Curricular = (113,906)
 - 4) Administration = (82,430)
 - 5) Support Services = (51,129)
- ❖ Increases in Current Expenditures in the following functions:
 - 1) Benefits = 345,835
 - 2) Instruction – Special Education = 209,652
 - 3) Transportation = 169,164
- ❖ Reductions in Staff:
 - 1) Seven (7) full time faculty positions eliminated
 - 2) One (1) Supervisor (Math/Business Education)
 - 3) Six (6) Faculty/Counselors/CST staff reduced from full time to .6
 - 4) One (1) Secretary
 - 5) One (1) Security Guard
 - 6) One (1) Full time Custodian and four (4) part time Custodians

Revenues 2010-2011



Expenses 2010-2011



TAX LEVY

Tax Levy and Debt Service 2009-2010	\$19,248,612
Tax Levy and Debt Service 2010-2011	\$19,862,179
Increase \$	\$ 613,567
Increase %	3.19%

CHART A**2009 STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO
OF REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS IN
BERGEN COUNTY**

District A	10.8
NHRHS	11.2
District D	11.2
District B	12.2
District C	12.9
District E	13.1

**BUDGETARY
PRIORITIES**

- ❖ Staff Development – *cut by 50%*
- ❖ Class Size is always a priority – *but will increase*
- ❖ Maintenance of Current Master Class Schedule
- ❖ Health & Safety – *security personnel reduced*
- ❖ Co-Curricular Offerings – *some activities reduced*
 - ❖ Facility Maintenance – *dramatic cuts*
- ❖ Long Range Institutional Needs – *No special projects in this budget. New boilers and generators were completed this Spring!*
 - ❖ Technology – *cut by 20%*

Student Publications Achieve State Recognition and Well Deserved Praise

Four Highlands publications have won multiple awards in the last year

The 2008-09 *Loch and Quay*, a literary magazine for sophomores, juniors and seniors, earned the honor rating of "All American" from the National Scholastic Press Association, with Marks of Distinction in the following four areas: writing and editing; photography, art, graphics and typography; layout; and concept. NSPA said, "This year's *Loch and Quay* is an outstanding publication. Your students exhibit exceptional writing, artistic and photographic talent... Most of the poetry is exceptional and jarring." Co-advisers last year were English teachers Svea Barrett and Mary Florio.

Last year's freshman literary magazine, entitled *Marked*, earned a Silver Medalist Crown Award from the Columbia (University) Scholastic Press Association. The judges said, "The honesty and emotional tone of the writing is very strong. As a freshman effort this is a great accomplishment." The adviser is English teacher Lauren Goldberg.

The school newspaper, *The Highland Fling*, has been called the best high school newspaper in New Jersey two of the last three years by the Garden State Scholastic Press Association, a group of journalism education professionals. One judge explained, "[This is] far and away the best student newspaper I've seen in a good long time." The Columbia Scholastic Press Association said, "Every story demonstrates the care writers take with every word and every sentence... Editorials are thoughtful, hold meaning for the reader, and offer solutions to problems... Impressive design throughout—kudos to design staff." Co-advisers are English teachers Lauren Goldberg and John Wodnick.

The school yearbook, *The Thistle*, was honored by its publisher, Taylor, as one of the top 12 of 7000 yearbooks it produces, and chosen by the publisher to model to other schools because of its theme ("Always Classic"), photography and design elements. Co-advisers to the yearbook are math teacher Hallie DeMarco and art teacher Jessica Thompson.

Student writing is alive and well at Northern Highlands, during every class period of every day as well as after school and even up to 10:00 at night during *The Fling's* frantic production weeks.



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

IMPACT OF 3.19% TAX LEVY INCREASE

ALLEDALE:

Average Home Assessment:	\$537,900.00
Increase per year in dollars:	\$ 37.37
Increase per month in dollars:	\$ 3.12

UPPER SADDLE RIVER:

Average Home Assessment:	\$748,586.00
Increase per year in dollars:	\$ 178.15
Increase per month in dollars:	\$ 14.85

CONGRATULATIONS!



✓ Girl's Fencing...State Champions!

NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

We are delighted to announce that Yadavan Mahendraraj has been named a National Merit Finalist. To become a Finalist, students must have superb academic records and test scores.

Finalists have the opportunity to compete for 2,500 single-payment National Merit \$2,500 scholarships. Corporate scholarships are available as well.

Best Wishes and Congratulations Yadavan!

EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), an independent agency of the State of New Jersey, administers the Garden State Scholarship Program, which includes the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar Awards. Each year, more than 7,000 students statewide receive scholarships in recognition of their high level of academic achievement. Students may use these awards to continue their education at New Jersey institutions of higher education. The following present seniors have earned this distinction:

Jiseop Bae
Jacob Becker
Yoon Kyoung Choi
Michele Corrison
Anne Crabill
Robert Garrett
Jamie Gebhardt
Melanie Green
Hye Wan Kim
Kayleigh Kobovitch

Jaclyn Lefkowitz
Thomas Lodge
Dennis Ma
Yadavan Mahendraraj
Danielle Montick
Hillary Mulder
Marina Naydenov
Lyle Nolasco
Ryan O'Keefe
Sarah Pfund

Noah Putter
Monica Santos
Adam Schwartz
Kristy Sidor
Michael Simpson
Alexandra L. Solomon
Alexander Sonageri
Caroline Sonett
Alexa Widawsky

Above-named students will be recognized at the Senior Award Ceremony on June 10, 2010.

VERY IMPRESSIVE . . .

MARCHING BAND AND WIND ENSEMBLE



◆ The Northern Highlands Marching Band captured second place in the USSBA State Championships held at Washington Township HS, Sewell NJ on October 24, 2009. The Highlanders narrowly missed the championship finishing two tenths of a point from first in the Group 5A competition. Band Director Teddi Sotiropoulos was pleased with the finish and grateful for the experience which should benefit the band in next year's competitions. Competing bands were judged on the basis of four criteria – Music Performance, Music Ensemble, Visual Performance and Overall Effect. The United States Scholastic Band Association was established in 1988 and boasts membership of over 700 participating high school marching bands.

◆ The Highlanders Color Guard was named "Best in State in Group 5A" at the State

Championships in Sewell, NJ (also 10/24) while Highlanders Drummers were awarded "Best Drum Line in Group 5A" at the Yamaha Cup, a USSBA festival held at Giants Stadium on October 3, 2009.



◆ Individual honors went to several Highlanders' musicians as a result of their performances in "blind" competitions judged by a panel of experts. Judges face away from the musicians during the selection process. Scoring results lead to placement on the Bergen County Band, the All Region and All State Bands.



◆ Four Highlanders were selected for the Bergen County Band they are: Emilie Hsu- Percussion, Emily Goddard

– Mallets, Mike Haliczzer – Trumpet and Jaclyn Kahn – Flute.

◆ Selected for the All North Region Band were: Ethan Piltz- Alto Sax, Mike Haliczzer – Trumpet, Emile Hsu – Timpani and Sohyoung Park – Flute

◆ Selected for the All North Region Orchestra was Nicole Lee – Viola.

◆ And three students Emil Hsu, Emili Cappichioni and Mike Haliczzer were admitted to the All State Band. Emil Hsu was named First Timpani, Emili Cappichioni took Second Timpani and Mike Haliczzer received eighth overall.

CHORUS AND CONCERT CHOIR

◆ Twenty-one Northern Highlands students were picked for membership in the 2010 North Jersey Regional Chorus. Auditions are judged by more than one hundred Choral Directors who, to ensure impartiality, score singers while facing away from the performer. Students are assessed on tone quality, vocal intonation and musicianship. The selection of twenty-one Highlanders to perform on the 230 member Regional Chorus is an all time high for Mr. Paster who has guided the program for the past decade. Mr. Paster was accorded the honor of conducting the Regional Chorus this year. Junior Michelle Schecter, a member of the Region and State Chorus was also chosen for the National Honor Choir in Washington D.C.



◆ Choral Director Tom Paster has won a lot of admirers over the past three years on the basis of the musicals he has directed. Two years ago, the 2008 show, "Beauty and the Beast" received twelve Paper Mill Playhouse nominations including one for Best Musical. The Paper Mill awards are highly selective; judges see one hundred high school shows and nominate five. Mr. Paster won "Best Director" in 2008 and Highlanders actress Taylor Brown took home the prize for "Best Supporting Actress". Last year, junior Billy McEntee was nominated for the "Best Actor" award for his performance in "The Baker's Wife" which included the scene "Bread" 2009 winner for "Best Production Number". Mr. Paster is hopeful that the cast of this year's show, "Urinetown" will be fortunate enough to continue the nominations roll. Papermill Playhouse nominations are received at the end of May and decisions on winners are announced in June.



Beauty and the Beast (2008)



The Baker's Wife (2009)



Urinetown (2010)

The Northern Highlands Band and Choir will be performing at Lincoln Center, Avery Fischer Hall on Tuesday, April 27. Tickets are thirty dollars and can be purchased from any Band or Choir member.

Northern Highlands Regional High School
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE
TUESDAY APRIL 20, 2010

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 Presentation Church (North Room)



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the **highlands** report