



HAT'S HAPPENING

CITIZENSHIP • CHARACTER • EDUCATION • WISDOM • KNOWLEDGE • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

MAY 2011

Building Activities



Middle School students working in the library



1st Grade Field Trip to the Memorial Art Gallery



High School student working with Autodesk Inventor CAD software during a Project Lead the Way Pre-engineering class



Sixth grade students doing the Maypole dance during Medieval Day



Mentoring Program with High School and Elementary School students



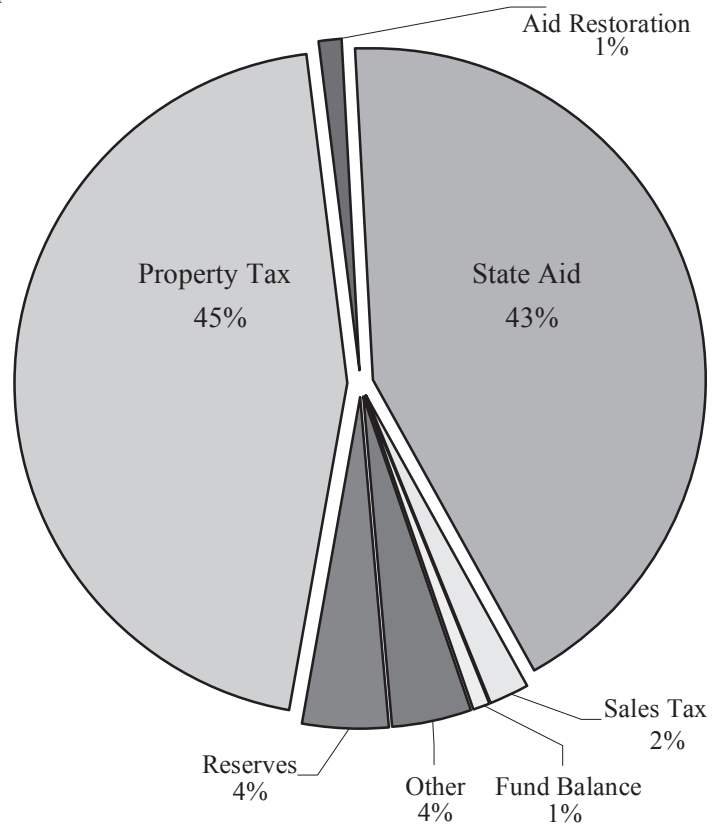
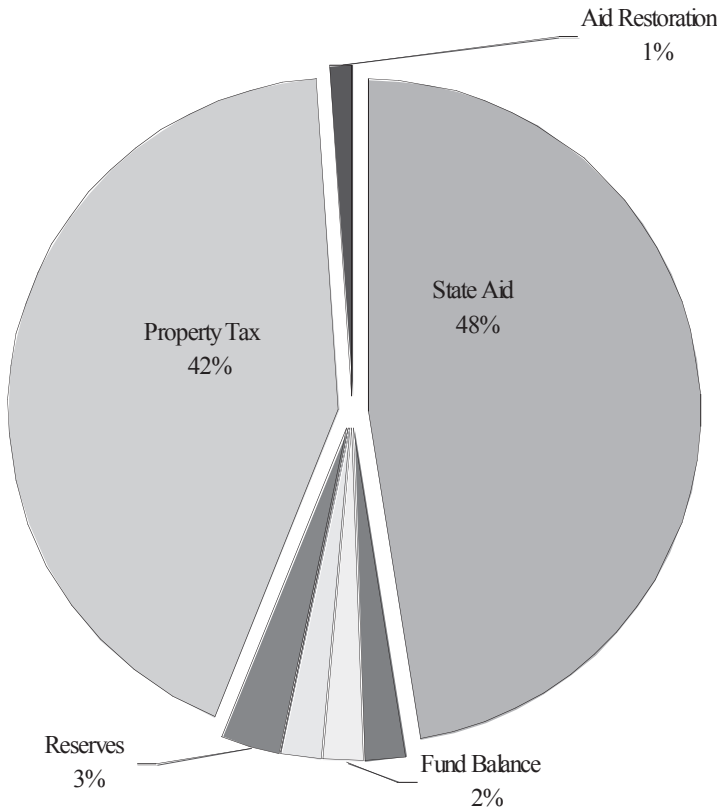
AP Biology and Chemistry students working on a lab assignment on Geneva Lake

**Budget Vote: May 17, 2011 - Middle School Cafeteria
1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Revenue Comparison

TOTAL REVENUE 2010-2011 \$20,678,583

TOTAL REVENUE 2011-2012 \$20,380,584



- We lost **2 million dollars of state aid** in the recently adopted budget.
- Our state aid amount is at the 2005-06 level.
- Our per student loss in state aid this year amounts to \$1,666 per student.
- We are using \$860,000 of our reserve funds to make up some of the aid loss.

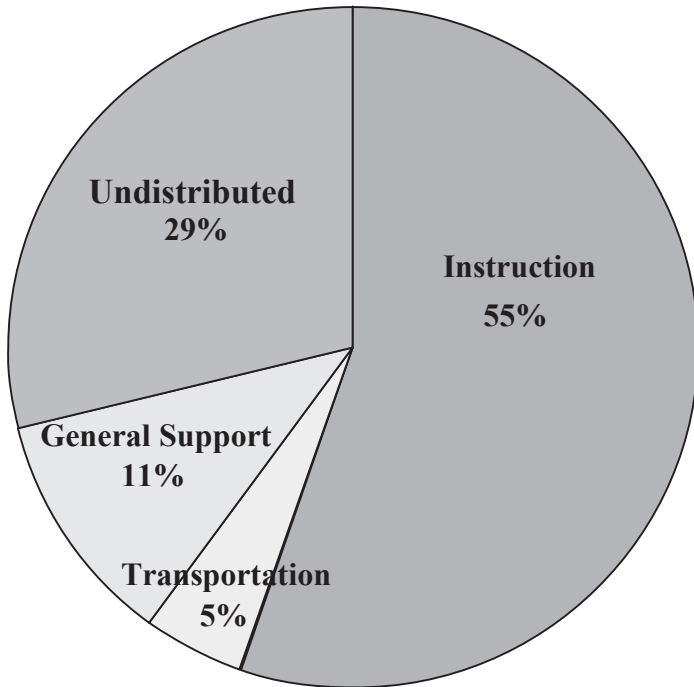
<i>Tax Rate/\$1,000 assessed</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>\$23.83</i>
	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>\$23.26</i>
	<i>Decrease</i>	<i>-2.38%</i>

*If your house was assessed at \$100,000 last year and again this year, your taxes would **decrease** \$57.00.*

Budget Comparisons

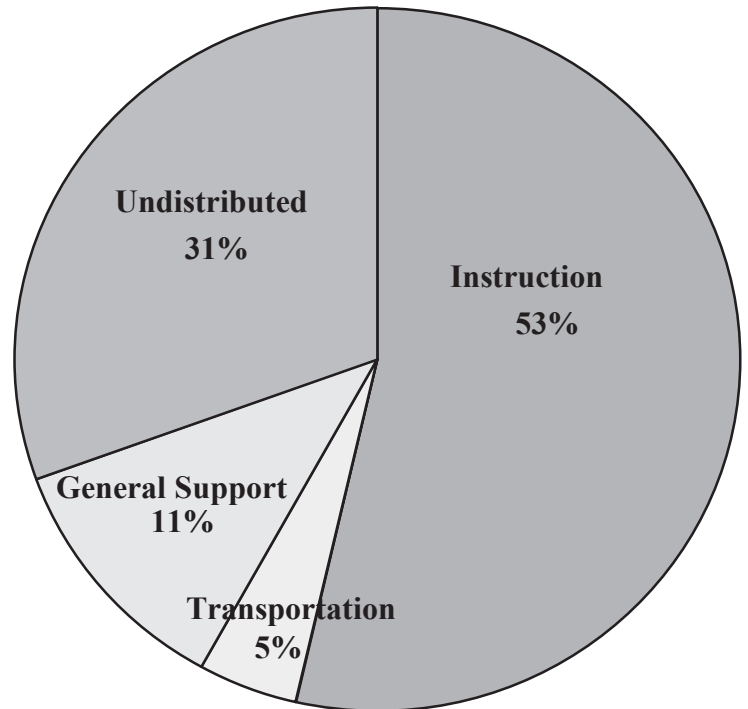
TOTAL BUDGET 2010-2011

\$20,678,583



TOTAL BUDGET 2011-2012

\$20,380,584



- Our budget is **\$298,000 less** than last year's budget.
- We cut 8 professional and 2 classified positions.
- Additional money was cut from materials and supplies, equipment and contractual.
- The Superintendent and all administrators are taking a pay freeze.
- The new CSEA contract saved the district money on both salaries and health care.

Tax Rate \$1,000 / True

2010-2011

\$22.64

2011-2012

\$23.26

Increase

2.75%

2011-12 School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2009-10 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2010-11 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2010-11 School Year*
Total budgeted amount	\$20,678,584	\$20,380,584	\$20,322,069
Increase (decrease) for the 2010-11 school year		(\$298,000)	(\$356,515)
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		(1.44%)	(1.72)%
Change in the consumer price index		1.6 %	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2010-11 school year		\$ 9,232,043	\$ 9,173,528
Administrative component	\$ 2,186,598	\$ 2,209,400	\$ 2,150,885
Program component	\$15,292,879	\$15,058,160	\$15,058,160
Capital component	\$ 3,199,107	\$ 3,113,024	\$ 3,113,024
* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2011-12 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. Should the proposed budget be defeated and the above contingency budget be adopted, the initial cuts as required by law would be eliminating certain equipment and community use of facilities. Additional cuts may be required to conform to spending caps which would come from programs as determined by the Board of Education at the time of adoption.			

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR¹ Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposed for the 2011-12 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$698

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2011-12 by the qualified voters of the Williamson Central School District, Wayne County, New York, will be held at the **Williamson Middle School Cafeteria on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 between the hours of 1:00pm and 9:00pm**, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law. A full report on property exemptions is available at the District Office and on the website www.williamsoncentral.org.

New York State School Report Card

The New York State School Report Card is designed to provide information to the public on student achievement. The information below compares Williamson students' performance on state assessments to the performance of students in public schools across the state in relation to the established New York State Standards.

The numbers listed below reflect the percentages of students who achieved scores on New York State assessments that indicate they are meeting the State Standards according to the New York State guidelines that were adjusted in 2010. The Elementary and Middle School charts reflect the performance of students in third through eighth grade who participated in the State assessments in the spring of 2010. For the high school, the numbers reflect the percentages of students who first entered grade 9 in 2006 who have achieved scores of 65-100 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics Regents Exams.

Williamson students have exceeded the performance of students in New York State Public Schools in all but one of the areas measured. All three buildings and the district are considered to be in good standing according to New York State Education Department Accountability Guidelines.

Williamson Elementary School English Language Arts

	Williamson	NYS Public Schools
Grade 3 English Language Arts	65%	55%
Grade 4 English Language Arts	71%	57%

Williamson Elementary School Mathematics

	Williamson	NYS Public Schools
Grade 3 Mathematics	70%	59%
Grade 4 Mathematics	72%	64%

Williamson Middle School English Language Arts

	Williamson	NYS Public Schools
Grade 5 English Language Arts	63%	52%
Grade 6 English Language Arts	74%	54%
Grade 7 English Language Arts	63%	50%
Grade 8 English Language Arts	66%	51%

Williamson Middle School Mathematics

	Williamson	NYS Public Schools
Grade 5 Mathematics	69%	65%
Grade 6 Mathematics	76%	61%
Grade 7 Mathematics	72%	62%
Grade 8 Mathematics	53%	55%

Williamson High School

**English Language Arts
2006 Cohort**
Williamson High School: 88%
NYS Public Schools: 79%

**Mathematics
2006 Cohort**
Williamson High School: 94%
NYS Public Schools: 79%

Message from the Superintendent . . .

Making the Best of a Bad Situation

Two years ago when the recession hit, we believed that things would improve, we could weather the storm. The truth is that we now refer to the budget cycle of two years ago as “the good old days”.



Maria Ehresman
Superintendent of Schools

Now that the state budget has been finalized and on-time, we know what aid the school district will receive from the state. Last year the loss of aid was \$1.2 million, this year our aid was cut \$2 million. The level of state aid to our district, along with many other districts in NYS, has been cut an unfair amount. We have carried that message far this budget cycle, with the New York Times recent editorial recognizing the inequality that exists between the districts that are more or less dependent on the state to support education. Unfortunately, the issue was not resolved this budget cycle and a school about the same size as Williamson will lose more in state aid than a district on Long Island that offers 7 foreign languages beginning at the elementary level. This is a problem that will continue to be addressed in the future.

In order to close the budget gap with the state aid decrease, we had to use several methods. All of the administrators in the district will be taking a pay freeze. Unfortunately, that did not make a dent in the shortfall. It was necessary to take other steps to bring the 2011-2012 budget into balance. So, the Board has agreed to use \$860,000 from our reserve funds, to cut a total of eight professional positions and to keep the budget below the amount of last year's to keep taxes in check.

With the instructional cuts this year, the total of positions cut over the last three years is twenty-two. We have managed to stay away from primary instruction and although no other programs will be cut completely, several will be reduced. We have also begun conversations with neighboring districts about shared services. Some of this sharing will begin in the 2011-12 school year. Next year, some of our upper class high school students will be spending part of their day in a neighboring district's academy. There have been several of these academies established in Wayne County, for example an Agri-Business Academy was established in Sodus, a Twenty-first Century Academy in Marion and a Project Lead the Way Academy in Williamson. All of these programs are BOCES satellite programs.

The use of reserve funds was a thoroughly discussed option. These funds are somewhat like savings accounts that a family would have. Once they are gone, they are gone. Ours will not be able to be replenished since there is no surplus in our budget this year or next year. We have chosen to use this money that is sometimes referred to as rainy day funds, because it is not only raining, it's pouring. On the other hand, we also know that the economic recovery is going very slow and have a plan that would keep us solvent for several years to come using these reserves. Our hope is that the inequality in the state funding formula will be addressed now that it has been brought into the light of day, the economy will continue to recover and the need for reserve funds will decrease.

The budget that is presented in this issue is one that is -1.44% less than last year (\$300,000) and if your assessment stayed the same as it was last year, this will result in a decrease in school taxes for you. The rate per thousand assessed has decreased -2.38%.

Please remember to vote on May 17th.



Board of Education Candidate: **Angela DeFisher**

My name is Angela DeFisher and I am a candidate for the Williamson Central School District Board of Education. I became a resident of the Williamson Central School District eight years ago, when my husband Dave and I were married in 2003. We have three children – Thomas, age 7, is a first grader at the Elementary School, Matthew, age 5½, is a kindergartener at the Elementary School, and David, age 18 months, who keep us busy at home.

I earned a Bachelor's degree of Business Administration (BBA) in Accounting from Niagara University in 1996 and moved to the Rochester area to work in Finance at Xerox upon graduation. I have been employed with Xerox for almost fifteen years and, in that time, have also earned a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from St. John Fisher College in 2001, completed an APICS (Advancing Productivity, Innovation and Competitive Success – The Association for Operations Management) CPIM (Certified in Production and Inventory Management) certification in 2008, and held a variety of positions in finance, management, and manufacturing. Since 2006, I

have been the Planning Analyst/Buyer for the Developer Business in the Webster Consumables Manufacturing Plant.

In 2004, when our first son was born, I gave up my position as the Production Control Manager for the Webster Toner Developer Plant to work part-time so that I could spend more time at home with our children and be actively involved in their education. Although my job responsibilities and positions at Xerox have changed several times since then, I have remained part-time and become more involved as a parent in the Elementary School.

I am currently one of the Elementary School Representatives on the PTSA, a parent representative on the Elementary School ABLE (A Better Learning Environment) Team, and room mother for both of my sons' classrooms. Each of these volunteer opportunities has expanded my own learning, broadened my view of our education system, and introduced me to many members of our school community, including students, parents, educators, and staff. My involvement has also strengthened my belief that we have an excellent school district with dedicated people working every day to ensure its success and the success of our children. As a result of my involvement at school, I have been approached and encouraged by a number of people to pursue one of the open positions on the Board of Education.

I believe that we are on the threshold of significant changes in our education system and I seek to be an active, positive participant in that change. We have the potential to shape this change but we must be forward thinking and proactively address the issues facing education, rather than wait for change to be mandated. By working together, we can influence the future and ensure success for our students and community.

I eagerly look forward to serving on the Williamson Central School District Board of Education and ask for your vote on Tuesday, May 17th.

THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION 1: BUDGET 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR

Shall the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year, in the amount of \$20,380,584 be approved?

REGARDING PROPOSITION 1

THE TRUE TAX RATE IS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE 2.95%.

THE ASSESSED TAX RATE IS ESTIMATED TO DECREASE -2.38%. FOR A HOUSE THAT WAS ASSESSED AT \$100,000 BOTH THIS YEAR AND LAST YEAR, THIS AMOUNTS TO AN ANNUAL DECREASE OF \$57.00.

PROPOSITION 2:

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to purchase one (1) 43 passenger bus at an estimated maximum cost of up to \$117,000 and one (1) 14 passenger bus at an estimated maximum cost of up to \$53,000 and to authorize the purchase of same in the full amount through the issuance of debt obligations of the School District, or to reduce the amount of such obligations by authorizing \$170,000 from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund, or any portion thereof as the Board of Education may determine, for the remainder as necessary for this purpose in an aggregate amount not to exceed such estimated costs, and to levy a tax in annual installments to pay the principal and interest thereon as the same shall become due.

REGARDING PROPOSITION 2 UPDATE INFO

WE WILL BE PURCHASING ONE LARGE AND ONE SMALL SCHOOL BUS.

THERE IS **NO INCREASE** IN TAXES NEEDED TO PURCHASE THIS BUS.

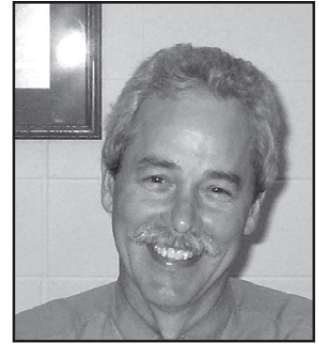
THE MONEY NEEDED WILL COME FROM THE BUS RESERVE FUND THAT THE DISTRICT MAINTAINS.

Message from the BOE President...

"Sometimes the best map will not guide you.

You can't see what's round the bend."

- Bruce Cockburn, singer/songwriter



Michael Collins
Board of Education President

I don't think anyone needs to be reminded of the economic challenges we're facing. What I would like to highlight is the quality of the education that the district provides for our children.

Even in uncertain fiscal times, we are committed to ensuring that Williamson students will continue to have access to programs and opportunities that will help them realize their highest potential. The hard work and dedication of the entire district is evident in the success of our students not only in the classroom, but at plays, concerts, clubs, athletics, and in service to our community. We will continue to balance the needs of our students with the new economic realities that are having a dramatic impact on our region. We are in uncharted territory but we are on this journey together and that makes all the difference.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you to all the administrators, teachers and staff for all that you do to support our students. Your work is greatly appreciated. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the community for your support and input now and as we prepare for the future.

Wednesday May 4 and Tuesday, May 17, 2011 are important dates. May 4 is the final public budget hearing. May 17th is the day when Williamson residents can exercise their privilege, right and duty to vote on the annual school budget and Board of Education trustees.

Mark your calendar. Vote on May 17, 2011.

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