

SPOTLIGHT

ON CRESSKILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*A Place to
Learn Among
Caring People...*

Dear Fellow Community Members,

April 2009

It is once again that time of the year when the Board of Education and school administration complete the important task of formulating and presenting the annual school budget. The 2009-2010 budget reflects our continuing commitment to provide a high standard of academic excellence, in a safe and nurturing environment for our students, while remaining fiscally responsible.

This year's annual budget increase is 3.49% for the general fund tax levy, \$19.53 per month for taxpayers in a home assessed at \$590,000. As we are sure you are aware, the majority of funds for our district are provided by all of us, the local taxpayers. The state of NJ contributes just 5.5% to our total annual budget. To help offset the tax burden left to Cresskill's residents, the Board is pleased to report that the district has undertaken a number of cost savings initiatives to help lower the tax levy. A list of these initiatives can be found inside this flyer.

This year's budget allows the district to continue to provide an excellent educational program and maintain class sizes for our students to ensure that they are each able to reach their full potential. The goal is to build a strong academic foundation for our students so that they can excel in school and go on to become successful, responsible, contributing members of society in whatever endeavor they eventually pursue. The administration and teaching staff have done a superior job in this regard. However, all these achievements and subsequent educational momentum would not be possible without the continued outstanding support of the entire Cresskill community.

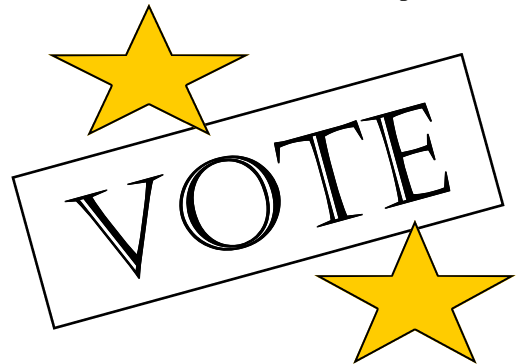
We invite you to attend one of the budget meetings highlighted below. If you are not able to join us at any of our budget meetings, you can access the budget presentation on the school website at www.cresskillboe.k12.nj.us.

We hope that you will continue to make the commitment to provide an outstanding education for the children of Cresskill by going to the polls on Tuesday, April 21st between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and encourage your friends and neighbors to vote on that day.

As always, on behalf of the entire Board of Education, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to working together to provide a school system of which we can all be proud.

Rebecca Singer
President
Cresskill Board of Education

Maria Lucibello
Vice-President
Cresskill Board of Education



There are four open Board of Education positions. The following candidates are running for

Three year terms:

Vasilis (Bill) Anastassatos (incumbent)
Patricia Miraldi (incumbent)
Robert Reinemann (incumbent)

One year unexpired term:
Noelle Alfonso

Please mark your calendars for the school district budget vote on

April 21, 2009
7:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

<u>Districts</u>	<u>Location</u>
1 & 2	Firehouse, Madison Avenue
3 & 4	Senior Center, Spring Street
5 & 6	Borough Hall, Union Avenue

BE AN INFORMED VOTER

Come to one of Dr. Bellina's Budget Presentations!

Tuesday, April 7, Budget Meetings, 8:30 AM & 7:30 PM, CHS/CMS Media Center
Tuesday, April 14, Budget Meeting, 7:00 PM, Merritt Memorial School Media Center

DISTRICT GENERAL FUND BUDGET

	PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2009-10	% of TOTAL BUDGET	
INSTRUCTION	10,463,114	45.53%	Includes salaries for teachers for regular classroom instruction, as well as mandated programs in English as a second language/bilingual, basic skills remediation, and special education. In addition, expenditures for general classroom supplies, textbooks, and interscholastic sports and other co-curricular activities, band, clubs and academic competition.
TUITION	1,593,665	6.93%	Tuition for regular high school students attending The Bergen Academies and County Vocational. In addition, tuition for special needs students attending other public schools, County Special Services Schools or Regional Day, and Private Schools for the Handicapped in and out of state.
SUPPORT SERVICES	3,162,375	13.75%	Includes salaries and other expenditures of the Child Study Team, Speech, aides for special needs students, Library, Guidance, health office, and Curriculum and Staff Development. Other expenditures include residential costs for special needs students, fees for diagnosis and treatment of students with disabilities, such as occupational and physical therapy.
ADMINISTRATION	2,028,971	8.82%	Includes salaries and other expenditures for the governance of the school building and daily administration of the school district. Salaries of Superintendent, Principal, Technology & Business Administrator/Board Secretary as well as the secretarial staff for each office. In addition, includes expenditures for legal, communication and purchased professional services.
BENEFITS	3,035,618	13.20%	Includes expenditures for social security contribution, Public Employees Retirement System contribution, medical, prescription and dental insurance, worker's comp. insurance, sick days to retirees, and tuition reimbursement.
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	2,001,070	8.70%	Includes salaries of custodians and maintenance staff as well as contracted services for the building and equipment. This category also includes costs for energy, water, property insurance, and custodial and maintenance supplies.
TRANSPORTATION	706,675	3.07%	Includes the contracted services for transporting County Vocational and Bergen Academies students. In addition, includes the contracted services for transporting special needs students as well as transportation for interscholastic sports and co-curricular.
	-		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET	<u>\$22,991,488</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	Amount of monies necessary to operate the district

ANTICIPATED REVENUES

	<u>2009-2010</u>	
Local Tax Levy	\$21,052,000	Amount to be raised by local tax levy. This funds 92.0% of the budget.
Tuition	453,595	General education and special education students that pay tuition to attend the Cresskill Schools. This funds 2.0% of the budget.
Miscellaneous Revenues	170,000	Rental of the high school facility, interest on invest- ments, private donations. This funds .5% of the budget.
State Aid	1,315,893	Includes funds from the state for general education and special education. This funds only 5.5% of the budget.
Total General Fund Revenue	\$22,991,488	Amount of revenue needed to fund the district

SCHOOL TAX LEVY

A home assessed at \$590,000 will have a school tax increase of

\$19.53 per month or \$234.41 per year

This represents a 3.49% increase

We are keenly aware of the economic times and have made every effort to implement cost savings initiatives by reviewing all programs and personnel. Listed below are items that have been eliminated, reduced in cost, or initiated to save dollars.

- ◆ A negotiated agreement with teachers to move to the more cost effective State Health Benefits Program
- ◆ Rental of the facility to a church group (\$90,000 revenue)
- ◆ Preschool special education children will be educated in district (savings of \$500,00)
- ◆ Special education services for 18-21 year olds (\$10,000 revenue)
- ◆ Integrated preschool program (tuition revenue for the preschool program)
- ◆ Purchase refurbished computers (60 desktops for \$9,000)
- ◆ New student data system (reduced maintenance cost by \$13,500)
- ◆ Line by line review of current budget
- ◆ Eliminated world language in grades 2 and 3
- ◆ District wide review of staff. Several positions will be eliminated and responsibilities will be shared amongst the remaining staff. This will be accomplished while initiating new programs and enhancing and maintaining current programs (savings \$170,000)

Cresskill Public Schools

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BULK MAILING

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CRESSKILL, NJ

PERMIT NO. 29

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

(e-mail: boe@cresskillboe.k12.nj.us)

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Mrs. Maria Lucibello, Vice President
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Mrs. Ronit Arginteanu
Dr. Neil Eisler
Ms. Tricia Miraldi
Mr. John Park
Mr. Robert Reinemann
Mrs. Denise Villani

POSTAL PATRON

CRESSKILL, NEW JERSEY 07626

Every Vote Counts
April 21
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

WHAT YOUR TAX DOLLAR WILL SUPPORT

- Class size throughout the district
- Special education students in district
- Basic skills programs in grades 1-8
- Sequential and comprehensive world language program grades 4-12
- Music and art in grades K-12
- 5 year technology plan
- 5 year maintenance plan
- Co-curricular and sports activities
- Purchase of textbooks and workbooks
- Staff development

