

THE BRIDGE

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Grand Island Central School District

The 2007 Budget Bridge - The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District www.k12.ginet.org

Inside:

- Letter from the Superintendent.....2
- Budget Information.....3
- Where Does the Money Go?.....3
- Where Does School Funding Come From? 3
- 2007-08 Maximum Tax Rate Projection....4
- Students & Teachers go 'Bald for Bucks'...4
- Chicken BBQ Tickets.....4
- What Are Some Items Included in the
2007-08 Proposed Budget?.....5
- What Happens if the Proposed Budget Is
Not Approved?5
- Contingent Budget Information.....5
- Points of Pride.....6
- Universal Pre-K.....7
- Voter Qualifications.....7
- Propositions.....7
- School District Budget Notice.....8

A Citizen's Guide to the Grand Island

2007-08

School District Budget

Corporate Bowl 2007:

What three teams took home over \$7,000 in scholarships?



1st Place: Team MXA



2nd Place: Team Belligerence



3rd Place: The Ninjas

The 9th Annual Corporate Bowl was fast and fierce as 22 teams of four players squared off to compete for over \$7,000 in scholarship prize money. The contest was held March 13th and 20th in the High School Auditorium.

Corporate Bowl is an academic trivia game in which two teams compete against one another to win scholarship money. The event was sponsored by the Grand Island School Business Alliance (GISBA) and provides scholarships to the top three teams. Many local businesses were honored during the event by School Superintendent, Mr. Robert Christmann and the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Team MXA walked away with first place and \$1,000 each! Team Belligerence was awarded \$500 each followed by the third place team, The Ninjas, who were awarded \$250 each. The fourth place team, Fire, each received graphing calculators compliments of Reynell Educational Resources, Inc.

Thank you to all students, parents, Grand Island faculty, and local businesses for their time and donations to this prestigious event!

Budget/Trustee Vote, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., High School Gym



Superintendent
Bob Christmann

Letter from the Superintendent...

Before addressing the proposed 2007-08 budget, I would like to share with you some personal observations. Since February 2007 it has been my privilege to serve as Superintendent of the Grand Island Central School District. As part of the process that I went through as a candidate, I tried to learn as much as I could about the school district and the community. What I saw as an outsider in the fall was very positive. Since actually beginning, I have been even more impressed by the students, parents and staff. The commitment by businesses, elected officials and social agencies to do good things for others far exceeds anything I have seen in other districts. There is a sense of caring about others that is prevalent on the Island and that makes it a special place to live and work.

In addition to making Grand Island my place of employment, my family and I are in the process of making it our place of residence. I believe that it is very important for a school superintendent to live within his/her district. We hope to finalize a relocation as soon as possible. You need to know that I chose to live within the school district because of all that Grand Island has to offer. I believe in the high quality of the school district as well as the high quality of life on Grand Island. I am very pleased to be living on the Island.

Regarding the budget - most of my time, because of when I began, has been spent working with staff, administrators and the Board of Education members on developing the 2007-08 school budget. We accepted the challenge of assessing the expenditures to determine needs as well as checking for accuracy on the projected revenues. The Board's approach to the budget process was thorough and wide-ranging with many questions asked over many weeks. They discussed their concerns, expectations and goals for our school district. The Grand Island residents can rightfully be pleased with the seriousness of approach taken by the individual board members as they made their decision on the 2007-08 budget. In the end, the Grand Island Board of Education adopted a school budget of \$47,390,798 - an amount it believes reflected the delicate balance between student need and taxpayer resources. This action was not taken until after a budget forum was held during which any resident could express an opinion or question on the possible spending plan.

A budget must reflect what the Board of Education, as the elected trustees, seeks for its students and entire community. The Board sets the outcomes or results, they evaluate the progress and they authorize the means (subject to a community vote), to turn their goals into reality. In this budget there is a great emphasis on being able to improve the reading results of students. Several reading teachers are being added. By the end of third grade we expect every child to be at least reading on grade level. Grand Island students continue to achieve at higher levels of performance than students in other districts. Test scores went up in every academic category in the last year. This budget will help to accelerate how well our students are doing in preparing for their futures.

What does the budget, as adopted by the Board, mean to the taxpayer? First, a **maximum** tax rate increase is projected at .6% (less than 1%). It was originally set at .8% but revenues have improved and expenditures have been reduced. Your consideration of the 2007-08 budget is deeply appreciated. We strongly encourage each resident to carefully read this newsletter before going to vote on Tuesday, May 15th. All residents eligible to vote are encouraged to do so. The bigger the turnout the more accurately the results will reflect the opinion of Grand Islanders.



Robert W Christmann

Robert W. Christmann
Superintendent of Schools

Budget/Trustee Vote, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., High School Gym

2007-2008 Budget Information

The Grand Island Board of Education, at its regular meeting on April 2 and at a special meeting on April 4, formally adopted the 2007-08 Proposed District Budget. The budget plan totals \$47,390,798 and represents a spending increase of 3.92% percent and with it a projected maximum tax rate increase of 0.6% (less than 1%). In addition to the budget vote and school board election, a **Transportation Proposition** will be on the May 15 ballot. The Transportation Proposition would replace five school buses, and two pickup trucks would be replaced with snow plows. **Of the maximum \$555,000 budgeted to purchase these replacement buses, 71.8% is funded with state aid. If approved by District voters, the Transportation Proposition would not increase taxes in the 2007-08 school district budget.**

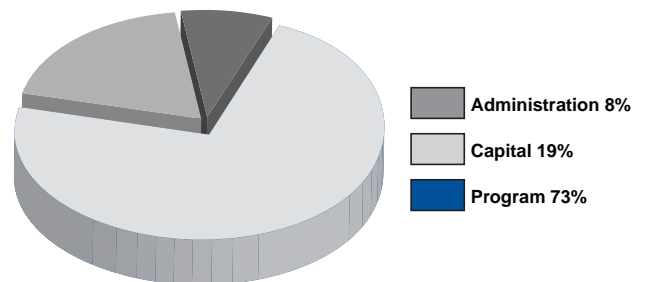
Where does the money go?

	2006-07	2007-08	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
ADMINISTRATION	\$3,705,200	\$3,993,549	\$288,349	7.78%
PROGRAM	\$33,424,403	\$34,530,676	\$1,106,273	3.2%
CAPITAL	\$8,471,402	\$8,866,573	\$395,171	5.09%
TOTAL	\$45,601,005	\$47,390,798	\$1,789,793	3.92%

Administration consists of ~ Board of Education, Central Administration, Finance, BOCES Central Data Processing, Legal Services, Unallocated Insurance, Assessment of School Properties, Refund on Real Property, BOCES Administrative Charges, Curriculum Development and Supervision, Regular School Support and Employee Benefits.

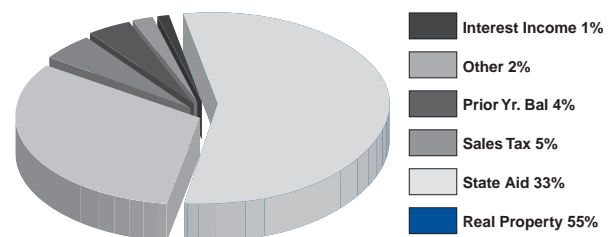
Program consists of ~ Instructional Services, Special Education, District Transportation, Community Services, Legal and Employee Benefits.

Capital consists of ~ Operation of Plant and Maintenance, Refund of Taxes, Employee Benefits, Debt Service and Transfer to Handicapped Program for the Summer.



Where does school funding come from?

Real Property	\$25,890,000
Sales Tax	\$2,485,000
Interest Income	\$250,000
State Aid	\$15,901,662
Prior Year Balance	\$2,000,000
Other	\$864,136
Total Budget	\$47,390,798



Budget/Trustee Vote, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., High School Gym

2007-08 Maximum Tax Rate Projection:

.6% (Less than 1%)

Factors not as yet determined which could affect this projection:

1. Equalization Rate for Property in the Town of Grand Island
2. Total Assessed Value of Property in the Town of Grand Island
3. Actual Tax Rate Not Finalized Until August 2007

	2006-2007 Actual	2007-2008 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Assessed Value	\$667,424,423	\$675,424,423	\$8,000,000	1.20%
Equalization Rate	51%	50.5%		
Tax Levy	\$25,427,976	\$25,890,000	\$462,024	1.82%
Tax Rate	\$38.10	\$38.33	\$0.23	0.6%

Students & Teachers go ‘Bald for Bucks’



Principal, Bruce Benson, assists in shaving Asst. Principal, Carl Guidotti, bald.

Students and faculty from Veronica Connor Middle School took part in “Bald for Bucks”, a worthwhile event that raised over \$10,000 for Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Fifty-two participants collected pledges with the intention of having their hair cut. On Wednesday, March 14, 2007 they did just that. A long row of chairs were lined up and students from the Erie 1 BOCES Kenton Career & Technical Center’s Cosmetology program were present with razors in hand.

Assistant Principal, Carl Guidotti, had issued a challenge to the school. He would go bald if students could raise more than \$500 by donating their spare change. The students won the challenge by collecting over

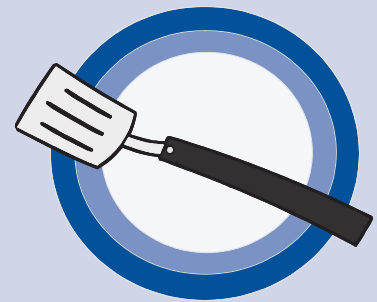
\$600 and Mr. Guidotti stepped up to the chair to face the razor. Principal Bruce Benson was present to assist with shaving Mr. Guidotti’s head.

Six female students also got in the spirit of things by participating in “Locks for Love”. Each girl cut over 10 inches of hair to be used to make wigs for female cancer patients.

Boys were given black caps donated by New Era Caps and the girls received t-shirts for their participation. Thank you to Mr. William Brodie, Middle School math teacher, for his hard work and effort in coordinating this successful event - and for shaving his own head!



Dale Baran braves the razor as a Kenton BOCES Cosmetology student shaves his head



Get your tickets to the Chicken BBQ!

The Grand Island High School Class of 2009 is sponsoring a chicken barbecue on Tuesday, May 15th in the small cafeteria at Grand Island High School. Chicken dinners will be catered by Krolick’s and include: chicken, salt potatoes, macaroni salad, and a roll with butter. Each dinner will be sold for \$8 and will be served from 2:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are available now through the High School library at 773-8886 or rachaelhickey@k12.ginet.org or at the door the day of the sale. Stop by and enjoy a chicken dinner on your way to vote!

Budget/Trustee Vote, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., High School Gym

What are some items included in the 2007-08 proposed budget?

- Current 06-07 Program Including:
 - Class Sizes
 - Music/Art Programs
 - Sports
- Five Reading Teachers Divided Among the Three Elementary Schools
- One Elementary Technology Teacher
- One High School Technology Teacher
- One Science Teacher
- Increased Dollars in Classroom Equipment and Supplies
- High School Administrative Coverage
- Part Time Personnel Supervision
- Student Music Competition Fees



What happens if the proposed budget is not approved?

If the district voters do not approve the proposed budget for 2007-08, a board of education, by law, must select one of the following options ~

- A. Remain on a contingency budget;
- B. Present the proposed budget to district voters a second time; or
- C. Make changes to the proposed budget and present a revised budget to district voters.

For the 2007-08 school year, state law would limit the spending increase in a contingency budget to 3.84%. A contingent budget requires a board of education to be responsible for determining ordinary contingent expenses. Some of these expenses include:

- Legal obligations.
- Items necessary to maintain the educational program of the district, including teacher's salaries, athletics, textbooks, field trips and other extracurricular activities.
- Transportation for K-12 students, children with disabilities (up to 50 miles) and extracurricular activities.
- Items that preserve the District's property.
- Items that assure the health and safety of students and staff.

Some expenses that would NOT be considered ordinary contingent expenses (and would not be included in a contingent budget) include:

- New equipment, such as school buses.
- Public use of school buildings and grounds except where there is no cost to the District.
- Nonessential maintenance.
- Capital expenditures, except in an emergency.

Contingent Budget Information

	Proposed Budget 2007-08	Contingency Budget 2007-08
Total Budget	\$47,390,798	\$47,469,838
Budget Increase	\$1,789,793	\$1,868,833
% Increase	3.92%	4.10%
Consumer Price Index	3.84%	3.84%

Important Note: The proposed 2007-08 budget is already less than the expenditure level available to the Board of Education should it need to go to a contingency budget.

Budget/Trustee Vote, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., High School Gym

Points of Pride

Sidway Elementary School

- Sidway Elementary is an exceptional Early Childhood Center with dedicated professionals and an active PTA. All focus on what is best for children!
- The primary focus of teaching and learning is early literacy where all teachers have received training in guided reading, early assessment, and Words Their Way.
- Sidway was one of the first schools in WNY to implement Everyday Math, a scientifically based program that is nationally recognized.

Kaegebein Elementary School

- Qualified as one of the 75 best public elementary schools in WNY by *Business First*, ranking 53rd out of all 232 public elementary schools in the eight county region.
- Kaegebein is nationally recognized as a premier Professional Development School associated with State University of New York College at Buffalo that prepares pre-service teachers who are entering the field of education.
- During the past three school years, Kaegebein has consistently improved its performance on the Fourth Grade New York State Assessments in the English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. This is also true for our performance on the Fifth Grade Social Studies Assessment.
- During the last five years, Kaegebein's Destination Imagination Team has been awarded top honors in their division and has gone on to compete at the state level.

Huth Road Elementary

- Huth is completing the second year of implementation for Positive Behavioral Interventions Support (PBIS) and Prevention is Primary. Teachers, students, and parents are involved in developing and implementing the Viking Values.
- Nine teachers have been included in the Who's Who of American Educators.
- Ninety percent of those faculty members eligible to participate in action research have chosen to do so. Ninety five percent of the faculty engages in at least one study group.
- An analysis of the writing portion of the ELA indicates that our students matched or exceeded the performance of students in schools within the Erie 1 BOCES region on more than half of the items.

Veronica E. Connor MS

- Ranked 10th (*Business First*) out of 144 Middle Schools in WNY.
- A Comprehensive Health and Wellness program for students and staff including Positive Character Development Programs "Thumbs Up" and "The Connor Character Connection".
- VCMS is one of the first schools in WNY to pioneer Smart Board technology in order to present the NYS math curriculum.

Grand Island Central HS

- Eight of 11 Regents exams had passing percentages (65-100) above 90%, and the other 3 had passing percentages in the high 80%'s.
- Five of 11 Regents exams had mastery (85-100) rates of 50% or higher, while 9 of 11 had mastery rates of 36% or higher.
- DECA, an Association of Marketing

Students, has received proclamation from the Town for it's achievement of bringing home 15 medals in regional competition. Students have also been invited to nationals.

- Corporate Bowl sponsored by Grand Island School Business Alliance (GISBA) has brought business, the community and the schools together to raise more than \$7,000 for college scholarships and other district programs.
- The High School offers 13 Advanced Placement courses which have been nationally recognized.
- GI ranked 25th out of 100 schools in WNY.

The District

- The GICSD ranked 12th out of 97 schools in WNY *Business First*.
- The District continues to spend less than that of both NYS public schools and similar schools for both special and general education students (NYS Report Card's fiscal responsibility supplement).

Athletics

- GI Athletic Program is 9th ranked among all large schools in WNY, according to *Business First*!
- GI has finished 2nd in NFL Supremacy seven consecutive years. (Supremacy is a result of all sports all year! Remember, NFL has six schools in the top 12 in enrollment of all WNY schools!)

Health and Wellness

- Student health and wellness, including character education and positive behavior initiatives, are being implemented in grades K-12.

Budget/Trustee Vote, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., High School Gym

VOTER Qualifications

(There is no pre-registration)

A person wishing to vote must show identification and be ...

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A district resident for 30 days prior to vote

Absentee ballots are available for the physically disabled, those who are ill, away on business or vacation. Voters may request by writing or by calling 773-8801 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. All ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m., May 15, 2007.

PROPOSITION I

Shall the Board of Education of the Grand Island Central School District appropriate the sum of \$47,390,798 for the 2007-2008 school budget as published?

PROPOSITION II

Shall the Board of Education of the Grand Island Central School District purchase three (3) 66 passenger school buses at an estimated cost of \$110,000 each; one (1) 30 passenger BE school bus at an estimated cost of \$81,000; one (1) 30 passenger BE wheelchair accessible school bus at an estimated cost of \$94,000, and two (2) plow trucks at an estimated cost of \$25,000 each and to expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$555,000 to be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property in the District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of Education Law, and in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District shall be issued.

PROPOSITION III

Elect two (2) members to the Board of Education.

1. Neil Seaman
2. Thomas J. Franz



UNIVERSAL PRE-K

Universal Pre-K (UPK) services are being made available free of charge to parents due to a state aid allocation to the Grand Island CSD.

- The UPK program provides the opportunity for services to children who turn four years old no later than December 1, 2007. This program can help ensure that each child will be successful in their later school experiences.
- A half-day (2.5) hours program each school day must be offered.
- No Grand Island taxpayer dollars will be allocated to this program. It is 100% funded by state aid revenue. This state aid will go directly to private preschools on the island who choose to participate in this optional program. No transportation will be available under this program.
- State aid allocated is \$113,400. Depending on the level of parent interest, a lottery may be necessary.

Information for preschools is available on the District's website at www.k12.ginet.org.

Parent information will be available in June.

Budget/Trustee Vote, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., High School Gym

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2006-2007 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2007-2008 School Year	Contingency Budget 2007-2008 for the School Year
Total Budgeted Amount	\$45,601,005	\$47,390,798	\$47,469,838
Increase/Decrease for 2007-2008 School Year		\$1,789,793	\$1,868,833
Percentage Increase (Decrease) in Each Proposed Budget		3.92%	4.10%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		3.2%	
Resulting Estimated Property Tax Levy for the 2007-2008 School Year		\$25,890,000	\$25,969,040
Administrative Component	\$3,705,200	\$3,993,549	\$3,993,549
Program Component	\$33,424,403	\$34,530,676	\$34,530,676
Capital Component	\$8,471,402	\$8,866,573	\$8,945,613
Basic STAR Exemption Impact			
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings Based on a Hypothetical Home Within the School District with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)			
	Budget Adopted for the 2006 School Year		Budget Proposed for the 2007 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$643.13		\$580.70
School Tax Increase/Decrease	\$151.48		\$11.62
Net Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$491.65		\$569.08
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2007-2008 by the qualified voters of the Grand Island Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the High School in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. prevailing time in the High School Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened for voting by ballot or machine.			

Copies of the District's proposed budget will be available at any of the District's five schools or in the District Office as of April 30, 2007.

Budget/Trustee Vote, Tuesday, May 15, 2007 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., High School Gym

Grand Island Central School District
1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Board of Education:

Richard Little, Jr., President
James Hanna, Vice President
Myrna Blair
Glenn Bobeck
George Casey
Neil Seaman
Jeri Schopp

Resident

Superintendent: Robert W. Christmann

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