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State law requires school districts to mail this information to all households in the district. If you would like additional information about the budget, please call the Superintendent's Office at 234-4032

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2009-10 by the qualified voters of the Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District, Schoharie County, New York, will be held at Golding and Radez Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Cobleskill-Richmondville School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by ballot or machine.

- *The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.*

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2008-09 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2009-10 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2009-10 School Year
Total budgeted amount	\$ 36,849,612	\$ 38,029,085	\$ 37,925,634
Increase (or decrease) for the 2008-09 school year		\$ 1,179,473	\$ 1,076,022
Percentage increase (or decrease) in each proposed budget		** 3.20%	2.92%
Change in the consumer price index		** 4.0%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2008-09 school year		\$ 13,365,315	\$ 13,261,864
1. Administrative Component	\$ 2,781,726	\$ 2,801,335	\$ 2,801,335
2. Program Component	\$ 26,053,977	\$ 26,747,195	\$ 26,643,744
3. Capital Component	\$ 8,013,909	\$ 8,480,555	\$ 8,480,555

What happens if the 2009-10 budget is not approved by a majority of voters?

If voters do not approve proposed expenditures within two tries, the board must adopt a contingency budget, which would put a cap on new spending (4.0%). Based upon a formula, C-RCS would be required to remove \$103,451 from the budget to meet New York State's contingency cap. By law, the district would have to eliminate all non-aided equipment, all non-essential building repairs, and any community use of the buildings not paid through community usage fees.

New York State Foundation Aid did not increase for the 2009-10 school year.

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 2008-09 school year	Budget proposed for the 2009-10 school year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 693	\$ 679
School tax increase/decrease	\$ 54	\$ 3
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 639	\$ 676

Cobleskill-Richmondville

S C H O O L S

Budget Vote

MAY 19, 2009, 7 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

An investment in the future

DUE TO A REDUCTION IN PROMISED STATE AID, THE 2009-10 TAX LEVY IS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE BY \$17,850 OVERALL OR 0.13%

After months of difficult and thorough public deliberations dating back to October, Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 19, to vote on a proposed \$38 million budget for the 2009-10 school year. The budget continues to invest in the future of students by supporting key educational initiatives while keeping the tax levy increase at 0.13%.

The proposed budget totals \$38,029,085 and is the product of months of work by the Board of Education, district faculty and staff, and the district's Administrative Team. In addition, it has had the overview and scrutiny of a Citizens' Budget Committee, comprised of 15 members of the community-at-large. This committee met multiple times during the budget development stage to offer ideas, suggestions and invaluable feedback to the school board.

"The challenge was to keep the tax levy low while not impacting programs



Without including Debt Service or federal Stimulus money, the 2009-2010 proposed budget represents a 1.46% or \$471,588 REDUCTION in spending from the 2008-2009 adopted budget.

for our students," added Citizens Budget Committee member, Candy Reinemann. "I want the public to know how willing the school board was to listen and put everything on the table for discussion."

Crafting a budget that ensured all children can attain the education they need to be successful in life would not be an easy task especially in the troubled

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Federal stimulus 'grant' money helps restore positions & programs next year

In February, President Obama signed off on a \$787 billion federal stimulus bill that includes \$2.7 billion to help New York State schools.

In approving the 2009-10 New York State budget in April, Gov. David Paterson and the State Legislature agreed to use this federal stimulus money to eliminate the Governor's proposed deficit reduction plan for schools. In doing so, the state restored more than \$1 million in proposed aid cuts to the Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District for the 2009-10 school year.

While these federal funds are no doubt helpful for all school districts, it's important to note that state aid to schools has remained essentially "flat" from this year to next and, in fact, will remain flat for at least the next two budget seasons.

Realizing that these federal funds are temporary, the C-RCS Board of Education upon finalizing the 2009-10 budget agreed to the strategy of looking at this money as "grant funds."

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Investment in the future

▶ continued from page 1

economy facing New York State and the nation. But that's a responsibility the district takes very seriously.

"C-RCS is committed to delivering the highest quality educational opportunities for our students at the lowest possible tax rate for our community no matter what the economic situation," said Superintendent Lynn Macan. "This lengthy and difficult budget process has been an intentional, meticulous review of all portions of the overall district budget with the bottom line of achieving these important goals."

In December, Governor David Paterson proposed in his Executive Budget \$698 million in state aid cuts to schools state-wide in 2009-10 to help reduce New York State's growing budget deficit. His deficit reduction plan included more than \$1 million (\$1,015,500) in state aid cuts to C-RCS.

Even before these proposed state aid cuts, the district was projecting a "rollover" budget hike (carrying forward costs from this school year to next and adjusting for increases in health insurance premiums, retirement contributions, contractual expenses, etc.) of greater than 5 percent (not counting debt service). This alone would have carried with it a 20 percent increase in the tax levy.

At that point, the goal of the school board, district administration and Citizens' Budget Committee was to reduce next year's spending to the point that it would necessitate less than a 1 percent increase in the tax levy. This would require eliminating about \$1.8 million from the rollover budget.

The district held 16 "Community Conversations" throughout the school year at which residents were provided an opportunity to share their thoughts about district strengths, as well as

OPERATING BUDGET CHANGES WITH STIMULUS DOLLAR EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$+423,172	2.46%
Benefits	+268,686	3.51%
BOCES services	-2,491	-0.09%
Insurance	+176	0.12%
Buildings and grounds	+7,580	1.36%
Utilities	-37,500	-3.93%
Transportation (including fuel for buses)	-68,425	-8.26%
Instructional programs	+96,946	10.63%
Instructional support	-14,232	-3.67%
Special Education tuitions	-190,000	-23.93%
Debt service	+695,561	15.5%
Total	\$1,179,473	3.20%

areas that should be examined for greater efficiency and/or potential elimination. The Citizens' Budget Committee followed up with several meetings in which members adopted the philosophy to "carve around the edges" of more programs rather than eliminate whole programs and opportunities for students (*see story page 7*).

"This year's budget process presented unprecedented circumstances for all of us," said Dan Bates, a Community Connector serving on the Citizens Budget Committee. "It seemed that making small cuts across the board was not only proactive but the responsible thing to do given the uncertainty of funding for future budget years."

Reductions were made from every department, including informing teachers from all levels that some positions may be eliminated next year due to budget constraints. Other positions were reduced in the transportation department and support staff areas. The district also worked to reduce more spending such as limiting outside professional development opportunities, student field trips and certain BOCES purchases as well as tapping into reserve funds or savings accounts for repairs and tax certiorari cases to close the final budget gap. In the end, the budget without federal stimulus money and debt service represented a spending decrease of 1.46 percent or \$471,588 from 2008-09.

Then in February, President Obama signed off on a \$787 billion federal stimulus bill that includes \$2.7 billion to help New York State schools. The State Legislature voted to use this money to eliminate the Governor's deficit reduction plan and restore the (\$1,015,500) to C-RCS. The money is being treated like "grant funds" to restore some positions and program in next year's budget (*see story page 1/chart page 3*).

'Carving around the edges' to save programs in 2009-10

Faced with the need to make significant reductions in the 2009-10 district budget, C-RCS faced a difficult decision. Should whole programs like athletics, music, clubs and intramurals be eliminated to save money or should these programs be scaled back?

In the end, with the guidance of the community, C-RCS adopted the philosophy of "carving around the edges" when preparing the budget instead of taking away entire programs and opportunities for students.

"We know that when young people are limited in their ability to 'connect' with school activities beyond the school day there is a greater likelihood that they will get involved in 'risky' activities," said Superintendent Lynn Macan. "For that reason, we will continue to offer as wide an array of these enrichment programs as possible, while balancing our need for budget constraints."

Here are some examples of "carving" versus program "elimination:"

- Instead of cutting programs like golf, bowling or Odyssey of the Mind, the district is looking to save with greater efficiencies in transportation of teams/clubs, reducing non-league competition, etc.
- Keeping programs like orchestra that distinguish C-RCS from other districts in the county and saving money by making lessons less frequent.
- Maintaining programs for Gifted and Talented students for less by using internal resources instead of more costly outside programs.
- Allow middle school students currently studying German to continue their sequence next year but discontinue German as an option for future seventh graders, gradually phasing out the subject.

District controls energy costs

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- By joining the Energy Education Inc. program in 2006, C-RCS has reduced its energy consumption by 32 percent resulting in a savings of \$793,982 over the last 33 months, and reduced energy appropriations of \$37,000 in the 2009-10 budget.
- The district is beating Energy Education's energy savings projections and is projected to avoid about \$2 million in energy costs by 2013.
- C-RCS has an Energy Educator who continually monitors energy usage and researches the latest technology available to keep costs under control.
- In January, the district received one of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) highest honors, the Energy Star Leader designation, for its ongoing efforts to conserve energy in its school buildings.
- The Golding-Ryder Complex, which houses the district's middle school and one of its two elementary schools, boasts the lowest energy use per square foot in the entire state.

Polling locations

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., May 19, at these locations:

District 1: Radez School, 319 E. Main Street, Richmondville (294-6621) – For school district residents in the towns of Worcester, Decatur, Roseboom, Seward, Richmondville, Summit, Jefferson, Blenheim, and Fulton (west of the junction of Tower and Greenbush Roads).

District 2: Golding School, 155 Washington Avenue, Cobleskill (234-4032) – For school district residents in the towns of Root, Carlisle, Esperance, Schoharie, Cobleskill, Middleburgh, and Fulton (east of Tower and Greenbush Roads).

Both polling places are handicapped accessible. For more details, call 234-4032 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Voter eligibility

You may vote if you are 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to May 19 and a registered voter. To register, contact the board of elections in the county where you live. Registration forms are available at the District Office or Radez Office until May 12.

Absentee ballots

Absentee ballots are available to anyone who will be out of the area for work, school or vacation; hospitalized; permanently disabled, or confined to home due to illness. For an application, call the District Office, 234-4032, or Radez Office, 294-6621. Completed applications must be received by the District Office no later than May 12, if the ballot is to be mailed, or no later than 5 p.m., May 19, if the ballot is to be personally delivered to the polling place.

Student Performance

Return on investment: How are C-RCS students performing on culminating exams from one year to the next? Here's a look at Regents exam results with data from the last three school years available from the New York State Education Department.

COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	156	99%	93%	49%
2006-07	146	99%	90%	42%
2005-06	166	97%	88%	38%

MATHEMATICS A

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	184	99%	97%	53%
2006-07	211	100%	97%	56%
2005-06	179	97%	93%	42%

MATHEMATICS B

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	89	99%	89%	31%
2006-07	74	96%	78%	27%
2005-06	81	91%	74%	23%

INTEGRATED ALGEBRA

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	160	96%	90%	17%
2006-07	NA	NA	NA	NA
2005-06	NA	NA	NA	NA

GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	182	92%	83%	46%
2006-07	169	97%	87%	33%
2005-06	154	94%	84%	49%



U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	152	99%	95%	64%
2006-07	156	98%	91%	61%
2005-06	148	95%	89%	57%

LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	171	98%	91%	33%
2006-07	163	99%	94%	31%
2005-06	152	97%	95%	31%

PHYSICAL SETTING/ EARTH SCIENCE

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	179	86%	74%	28%
2006-07	172	92%	84%	26%
2005-06	161	96%	90%	34%

PHYSICAL SETTING/CHEMISTRY

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	105	96%	81%	6%
2006-07	86	90%	70%	13%
2005-06	105	90%	76%	13%

PHYSICAL SETTING/PHYSICS

Year	# tested	% of all students scoring at or above:		
		55	65	85
2007-08	45	98%	91%	49%
2006-07	36	97%	97%	19%
2005-06	46	93%	85%	30%



“Our goal in using the federal monies as grant funding is to invest in strategies that will have a long-lasting impact on student achievement, but that will not obligate us in any way beyond the 2009-10 school year.”



Federal stimulus money

continued from page 1

The district is using the money in compliance with available government guidelines as one-year program funding opportunities with no long-term commitments in personnel or otherwise.

“The real danger is that if you attempt to use these temporary federal funding sources for long-term needs such as staffing you potentially set the district up for a funding shortage in future budgets when the funding disappears,” explained Superintendent Lynn Macan. “Our goal is to invest in strategies that will have a long-lasting impact on student achievement, but that will not obligate us in any way beyond the 2009-10 school year.”

Some of the appropriate uses of the federal stimulus package are to ‘save or create’ jobs and enhance learning opportunities for students. As such, those C-RCS teachers who would have been laid off prior to restoration of the deficit reduction funding will have an opportunity to work within the district next school year.

Also with the aid of stimulus money, C-RCS is investing in future development of specialized approaches such as Leveled Literacy Instruction and Math Recovery at the elementary level, a specialized grade 7/8 team at the middle school, and a Learning Center as well as General Equivalency Diploma (GED) initiative at the high school. All of these are designed to provide great support for all students, particularly those who struggle. The district will also leverage funds to invest in training that creates expertise that will long outlast the one-year funding availability.

“With our committed staff, focused leadership and community that values education, I’m confident our children will be prepared to achieve a successful and fulfilling future,” said Board of Education President Daniel Schulte.

Federal Stimulus Grant Funds

Following is a summary of how the Federal Stimulus Grant Funds are being utilized during the 2009-10 school year:

Description	Budget Category	Amount
• BOCES Communications Service	Support Services	\$19,260
• Student Management System, District-wide Paving Plan	Central Services	97,000
• Grade Level, Team & Department Chair Training: Math Recovery Training, On-line Learning, AP Training, Project Lead the Way Training	Administrative & Curriculum Development	116,860
• 7.5 FTE Teaching positions, 1 Teaching Assistant Elementary Math Recovery, Staffing, Planning & Development; Music Equipment; Technology Equipment; Science Equipment; Character Education; Academy Supplies; Elementary Math Textbooks; BOCES Academies, Expansion in Arts in Education	Teaching-Regular School	498,780
• 0.5 FTE GED Staffing, Summer School (Teaching)	Teaching-Special Schools	110,614
• On-line Student Learning; Lease of smartboards, projectors & document cameras	Instructional Media	35,000
• 0.5 FTE Psychologist/Counselor MS Drop-out Initiative; Student Competitions	Pupil Personnel Services	28,721
• Summer School Transportation	Transportation	15,000
• Social Security and health care related to additional personnel above	Employee Benefits	94,265
TOTAL		\$1,015,500

C-RCS Fast Fact: Did you know?

Ryder Elementary School teacher, Dawn Townsend, has applied for National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Teachers who earn this prestigious certification must meet a rigorous set of national standards and performance-based assessments. “This speaks to the quality of our teachers who continually strive to grow their craft in pursuit of serving our students to the highest degree possible,” said Superintendent Lynn Macan.

Where the dollars go

2009-10 appropriations:

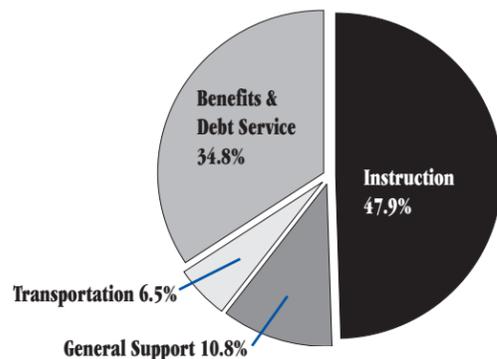
	2008-2009 Adopted Budget	2009-2010 Proposed Budget Without Stimulus	Federal Stimulus Grant	2009-2010 Proposed Budget With Stimulus	Dollar Change to Prior Year
General Support (10.8% of budget)					
Board of Education	\$29,832	\$32,140	\$0	\$32,140	\$2,308
Central Administration	244,591	248,295	0	248,295	3,704
Finance	346,854	354,120	0	354,120	7,266
Support Services	73,601	72,207	19,260	91,467	17,866
Central Services	3,131,313	2,898,389	97,000	2,995,389	-135,924
Special Items	384,505	390,216	0	390,216	5,711
Subtotal	\$4,210,696	\$3,995,367	\$116,260	\$4,111,627	-99,069
Instruction (47.9% of budget)					
Administration & Curriculum Development	\$1,215,819	\$1,170,731	116,860	1,287,591	71,772
Teaching – Regular School	9,546,741	9,413,592	498,780	9,912,372	365,631
Teaching – Special Programs	4,393,653	4,337,636	0	4,337,636	-56,017
Teaching – Special Schools	138,890	80,711	110,614	191,325	52,435
Instructional Media	811,744	796,730	35,000	831,730	19,986
Pupil Personnel Services	1,729,131	1,619,787	28,721	1,648,508	-80,623
Subtotal	\$17,835,978	\$17,419,187	\$789,975	\$18,209,162	\$373,184
Transportation (6.5% of budget)	\$2,526,704	\$2,452,305	\$15,000	\$2,467,305	-\$59,399
Census (0% of budget)	\$6,370	\$6,880	0	\$6,880	\$510
Benefits and Debt Service (34.8% of budget)					
Employee Benefits	\$7,664,437	\$7,838,858	\$94,265	\$7,933,123	\$268,686
Debt Service & Interfund Transfers	3,900,420	4,566,789	0	4,566,789	666,369
Bus payments & other borrowing	705,007	734,199	0	734,199	29,192
Subtotal	\$12,269,864	\$13,139,846	\$94,265	\$13,234,111	\$964,247
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$36,849,612	\$37,013,585	\$1,015,500	\$38,029,085	\$1,179,473

Three-part budget

School districts are required to present their budgets in three component parts. For Cobleskill-Richmondville, they are as follows:

	2008-09	2009-10	\$ change
Administrative	\$2,781,726	\$2,801,335	\$19,609
Program	26,053,977	26,747,195	693,218
Capital	8,013,909	8,480,555	466,646

EXPENDITURES



WHAT'S IN THE ADOPTED BUDGET?

Continuation of Technology Replacement Schedule

Funding for expansion of CCC program for students

All current student extra- and co-curricular opportunities

Continued funding for Drop Out Team work and initiatives

Level staffing of aides and teaching assistants to support students

Funding to supply all students with required school supplies

Support for Math Recovery Initiative at elementary level

Support for Leveled Literacy Intervention

Provisions for targeted equipment purchases (assuming budget passage)

WHAT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE 08-09 BUDGET?

Elimination of 3 elementary sections in district due to declining enrollment

Reduction in overtime budgets district-wide

Elimination of field trips for 2009-10 school year

Salary freeze for Central Office administration

Reduction in travel and conferences district-wide

Reduction in BOCES budgeting

Reduction in Interscholastic budget due to league imposed competition reduction

Reduction in copying and postage costs

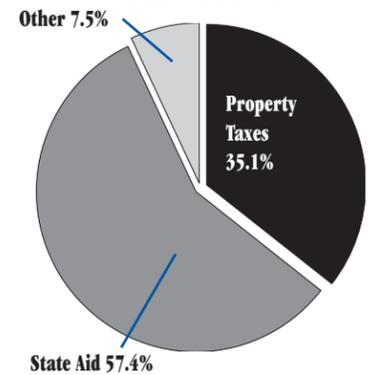
Reduction in Health Insurance codes now that premiums have been established

2009-10 revenues:

Where the dollars come from

	2008-09 Budgeted	2009-10 Proposed	Dollar Change
Local sources (3.9% of total)			
Real property tax items	\$674,851	\$628,809	-46,042
Charges for services	450,175	460,500	10,325
Interest earnings	210,000	195,000	-15,000
Use of property	35,000	28,250	-6,750
Refund of prior year expense	129,500	170,000	40,500
Subtotal	\$1,499,526	\$1,482,559	-\$16,967
State sources (57.4% of total)			
Basic formula aid	\$13,079,400	\$13,117,724	38,324
BOCES aid	814,778	961,534	146,756
Building aid	3,533,251	3,919,516	386,265
Textbook, software, & library aid	157,592	162,954	5,362
Computer hardware, technology aid	37,859	37,727	-132
Transportation aid	2,859,957	3,113,233	253,276
Public/private excess cost aid	569,781	507,597	-62,184
Subtotal	\$21,052,618	\$21,820,285	767,667
Other sources (3.6% of total)			
Medicaid reimb. & other sources	\$46,050	\$0	-46,050
District reserves	172,353	228,355	56,002
Appropriated fund balance	731,600	1,132,571	400,971
Subtotal	\$950,003	\$1,360,926	\$410,923
Real property tax (35.1% of total)	\$13,347,465	\$13,365,315	\$17,850
TOTAL REVENUES	\$36,849,612	\$38,029,085	\$1,179,473

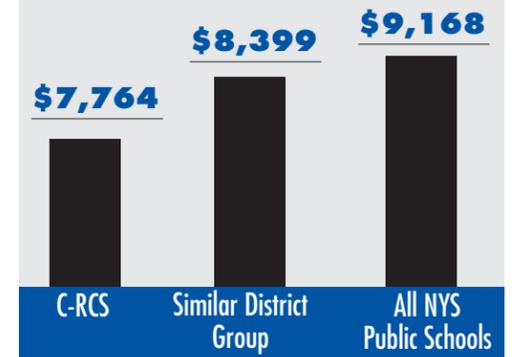
REVENUES



Average cost per pupil

From 2005-2006 school year

State information provided is always for several years previous



Other propositions

Bus purchase

Voters will be asked to approve spending \$595,000 to purchase eight buses. The Board of Education's guideline is to replace the larger vehicles after 14 years or 150,000 miles and the smaller ones after six years or 100,000 miles. The district is eligible for 90 percent state transportation aid on these expenditures. A 66-passenger bus priced at \$107,000 costs taxpayers \$10,700 under the formula.

School board elections

The following candidates are running for two seats on the Cobleskill-Richmondville Board of Education. Each seat carries a three-year, unpaid term, starting July 1, 2009. Running for one seat are incumbent Elizabeth A. Montario, Craig A. Erikson and Darius A. Benson. Running unopposed for the second seat is incumbent Howard Richard, Jr.

Public library budget and board elections

Voters will decide on a separate proposition to fund the Community Library for \$181,720, up from the current \$170,720 budget. The Community Library assesses funding for its annual budget which, under NYS Education Law, is to be collected by the school district in which the library resides, and then forwarded to the library.

Three candidates are running for four seats on the library's Board of Trustees. They are: Martin Thompson, five-year term; John W. Hart, four-year term; B. Berenice Dooley, five-year term. No candidate filed a petition for the fourth, five-year term position.