

McGraw Central School District

May 2011
Volume 10 , Issue 4

Year One-And Still Standing

To quote one of the board members, "This has been one of the hardest budgets we have worked on in the time I have been on the board." Indeed these are troubling financial times for the state, schools, municipalities and taxpayers. As costs continue to increase, revenue is not increasing at the same rate. For our district, this meant all facets of the school budget had to be examined closely. As the board embarked on the budget process, they operated under the following principles:

1. Minimize costs
2. Maximize savings
3. Minimize cuts to programs and positions
4. Maximize educational quality

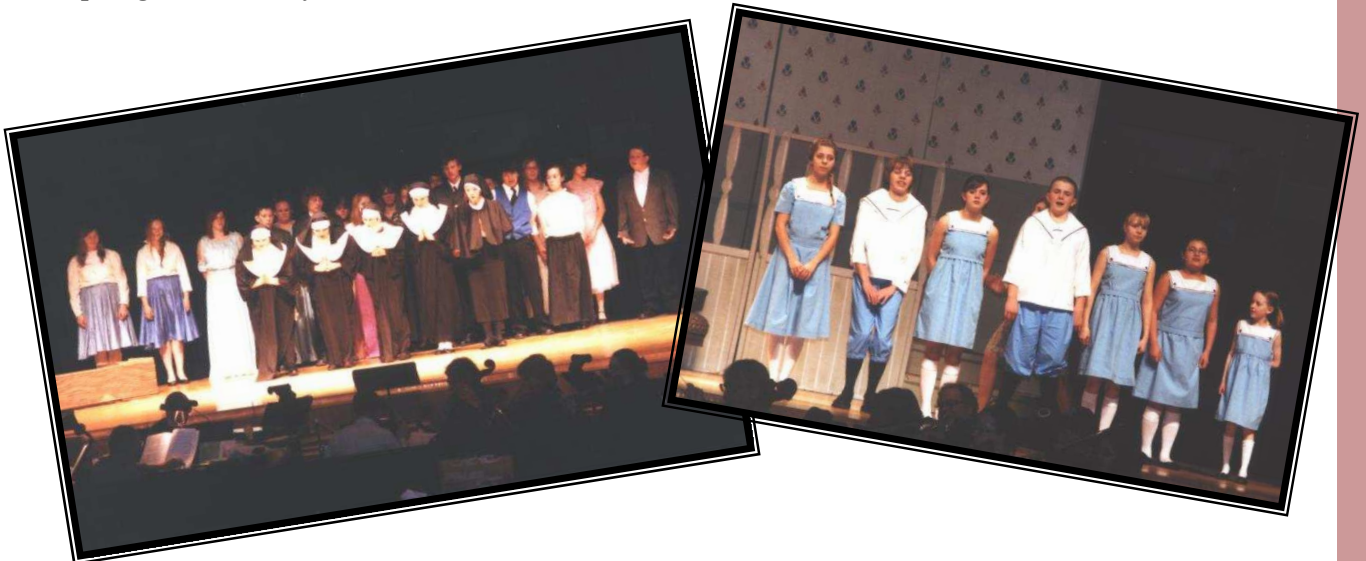
As the board worked to eliminate a 1.3 million dollar budget gap, those guiding principles kept us focused. The board first completed a line by line analysis to remove any excess waste or unnecessary expenses. As the board continued examining every area they could to save money, most of the savings eventually came from four teacher retirements. With retirements, restoration of \$90,000 in aid, and the McGraw teachers accepting a 0% salary increase, the district

did not eliminate any McGraw teacher positions. We appreciate their support in helping the district close the 1.3 million dollar budget gap.

The new budget for the 2011-2012 school year will be \$10,744,196, which is a 6.39% increase which includes capital project aid and expenses. Without the new building project aid and expenses, the budget would have increased by approximately \$173,000 or 1.7%. With the current increase, the tax levy will be 2%.

With costs increasing, gas prices soaring and state aid decreasing, the board is committed to presenting the best budget possible to the community. Please come to the Budget Hearing on May 10th at 7:00 PM. Voting will take place on May 17th, from noon till 8:00 PM in the high school lobby. Don't forget that there are two board positions open and the candidates will be available to meet you on May 10th at 6:00 before the budget hearing. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 836-3636.

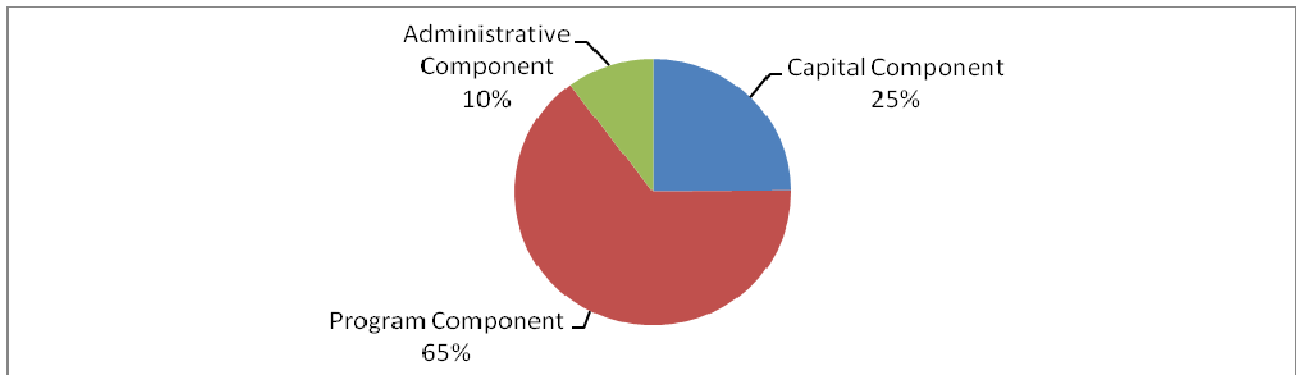
Respectfully,
Mary E. Curcio, Superintendent



Expenditure Summary

	2010-11 Budget	2011-12 Proposed Budget	Inc/Dec
Program Component	\$6,928,653	\$6,977,814	\$49,161
Administrative Component	\$1,070,601	\$1,095,343	\$24,742
Capital Component	\$1,841,116	\$2,671,039	\$829,923

Proposed 2011-12 Budget



Voter Qualifications

Citizen of the United States

18 Years of Age

A resident of the district for a period of 30 days preceding the meeting at which she/he offers to vote

Absentee ballots may be obtained from the district office. Ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 pm on the day of the vote.

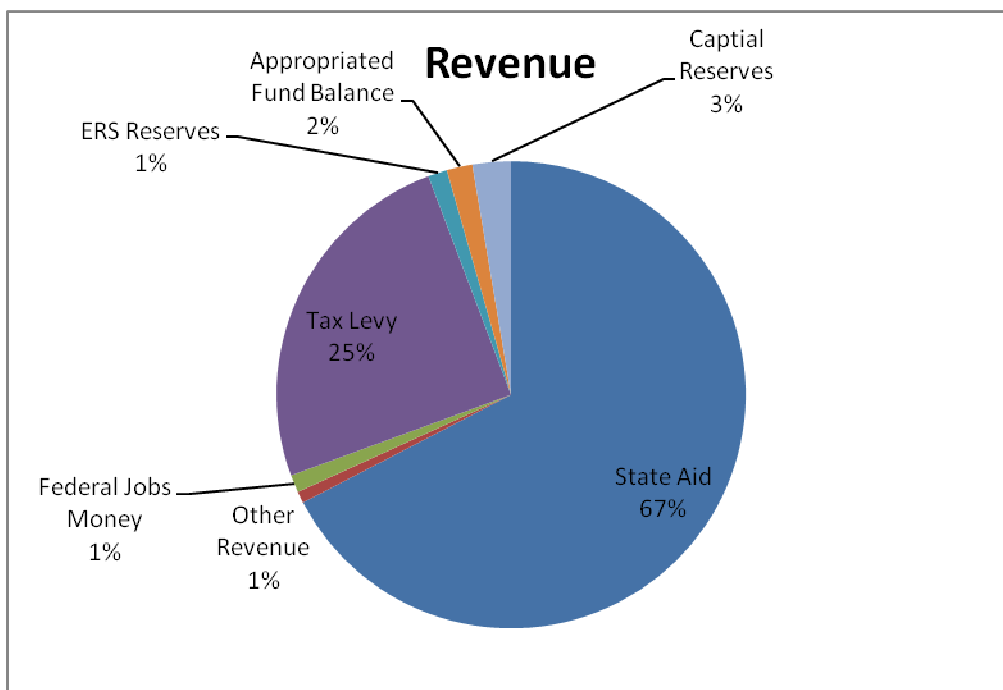
Average Estimated Increase

Home Value	No Star	Basic Star	Enhanced Star
50,000	\$17	\$7	\$0
100,000	\$35	\$24	\$14

Revenue Summary

2011-2012 Proposed Budget

State Aid	\$7,609,910
Other Revenue	\$90,000
Federal Jobs Money	\$137,000
Tax Levy	\$2,805,506- 2%
ERS Reserves	\$150,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$200,000
Capital Reserves	<u>\$300,000</u>
Estimated Revenue	<u>\$10,744,196</u>



Purchase-the budget vote will include one proposition for the purchase of one 66-passenger diesel fueled school bus and the total estimated maximum cost is \$106,000. The Board of Education will seek authorization to use up to \$50,000 in transportation reserves.

The Good News

During the budget process, maintaining educational quality was a large priority for the board. In that endeavor, we have decided to form a middle school concept at the junior-senior high school. The formation of a middle school gives the district an opportunity to not fill a teacher retirement and reallocate resources to save positions.

Research shows that young students are more successful in schools that are focused on how they learn. They are more successful when instruction is delivered at a level that is appropriate to them. Students that are treated like young adolescents rather than elementary students, readily accept more responsibility for their learning. With more focused instruction and intervention at the middle school level, assessment scores and graduation rates are sure to increase. These two areas are of top priority to the Board and to the State Education Department.

As we endeavor to form the middle school, there will be a more centered focus on character education, sixth graders will be treated more like young adults, they will be better prepared for high school, they will have more support for reading and writing, they will have better technology opportunities and more. We welcome your input in supporting this endeavor and more information will follow.

Savings for the District

Elimination of one librarian through retirement <i>(Remaining librarian will be shared with both schools)</i>	\$85,000
Elimination of one teacher from retirement	\$80,000
Elimination of Blackboard	\$4,800
Eliminate BOCES PE	\$44,785
Reduce BOCES music to .2 FTE	\$24,658
Breakage from 2 teachers retiring	\$20,000
Breakage from retirement of elementary guidance (Jan 2012)	\$40,000
Elimination of 2 teaching assistants	<u>\$48,500</u>
	\$351,743

McGraw Central School District Property Tax Report Card

	2010-11 Budget	2011-12 Budget	Percent Change
Total Spending	\$10,098,756	\$10,744,196	6.39%
Total Estimated School Tax Levy	\$2,750,496	\$2,805,506	2.00%
School Enrollment	585	580	-0.85%
Consumer Price Index			1.6%
Adj. Restricted Fund Balance	\$2,401,220	\$1,951,152	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Bal.	\$651,677	\$200,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Bal.	\$419,098	\$400,000	
Adj. Unrestricted Fund Bal. as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.15%	3.72%	

Salary Disclosure Document

Chapter 474 of the Laws of 1996 included a provision requiring the publication of the Superintendent's salary as part of the annual school district budget process. This information is being appended to the proposed 2011-12 budget document in satisfaction of this requirement.

DISTRICT PROFILE

The Superintendent of Schools is the CEO of the MCS D. She has served the district for 10 months subject to a contract with the Board of Education. In short, the Superintendent is the CEO of a business with a proposed budget of \$10,744,196 serving 580 students with 110 employees in two school buildings & bus garage.

SUPERINTENDENT'S QUALIFICATIONS

Pursuant to Education Law, superintendents must hold a certificate from the Commissioner of Education certifying their qualification including a minimum of 60 credit hours of post-graduate work and three years of teaching experience. Mary E. Curcio, Supt. of the McGraw School, holds a Bachelor degree from SUNY Oswego, a Masters degree from SU and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate study in School Adm. from SUNY Cortland and has been certified by the Commissioner of Education to be a Superintendent of Schools since 2003. Mrs. Curcio spent 10 years as a classroom teacher and seven years as a 6-12 principal.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Statutory Responsibilities

1711. Appointment of the Superintendent of Schools. Subdivision 5:

The Education Law charges the Superintendent with the following duties:

- to be the chief executive officer of the school district and the educational system and to have the right to speak on all matters before the board, but not to vote
- to enforce all provisions of law and all rules and regulations relating to the management of the school and other education, social and recreational activities under the direction of the Board of Education
- to prepare the content of each course of study authorized by the Board of Education and to recommend suitable lists of textbooks
- to have supervision and direction of associate, assistant superintendents, directors, supervisors, principals, teachers, lecturers, medical inspectors, nurses, auditors, attendance officers, janitors and other persons employed in the management of the schools or the other educational activities of the district authorized by (Education Law) and under the direction and management of the Board of Education
- to transfer teachers from one school to another, from one grade or course of study to another grade of such course
- to report such board violations and regulations and cases of insubordination and to suspend an associate, assistant or other superintendent, director, supervisor, expert, principal, teacher, or other employee until the next regular meeting of such board
- to have supervision and direction over the enforcement and observance of the courses of study, the examination and promotion of pupils and over all other matters pertaining to playgrounds, medical inspection, recreation and social center work, libraries, lectures and all other education activities under the management direction and control of the Board of Education.

3012. The Superintendent has the power to recommend teachers and supervisors to the board for tenure.

The Superintendency does not fit the traditional work week. In addition to office responsibilities, the Superintendent is expected to attend every board meeting, parent and teacher meetings, as well as attend school programs at the elementary and secondary schools. A 60-70 hour work week should not be considered unusual. The Superintendent's compensation is broken into three parts: salary, benefits, and other considerations.

\$110,000.00 Annual Salary

The amount disclosed is included in the 2011-12 budget for the Superintendent's salary.

The Superintendent enjoys the same ancillary benefits provided to all employees. Many of these benefits such as employer contribution to Social Security, Medicare and retirement are required by law. Dental & Health Insurance (\$13,156.13).

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

PERMIT NO. 1

McGraw, NY 13101

Mary E. Curcio, Superintendent

Mark Dimorier, Secondary Principal

Beth Carsello, Elementary Principal

Russ Hearnton, Shared Business Administrator

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dave Bordwell, President

Barbara Closson, Vice-President

Steve Jenney

Kim Morse

Ginny Mott

Tony Opera

Matt Tracy

ECRWSS

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THE MAXIMUM FULFILLMENT OF EACH STUDENT'S POTENTIAL

ITEMS ON THE BALLOT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the McGraw Central School District is hereby authorized to expend the sums set forth for the General Fund Appropriations in the amount of \$10,744,196.

PROPOSITION I—PURCHASE OF ONE 66-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS

Vote on two Board of Education Seats

Candidates for the McGraw School District Board of Education are elected at large. There are three candidates for two (2) vacancies.

1. Cindy Buerkle
2. Barbara Closson
3. Stephen Tobias