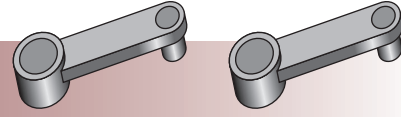




# An eye on the BOTTOM LINE!



**Fort Plain residents are being asked to vote on a proposed \$18,150,000 budget for 2011-12. Spending will decline by 2.16 percent or \$400,000 compared to the current budget.**

The total tax levy would increase 2.75 percent. A zero percent increase in spending would have generated a 16% increase in the property tax levy. Tax rates cannot be determined at this time, because final tax bills will not be established until August when equalization rates and assessed values are set and all tax certioraris are filed.

### Escalating costs

Fort Plain is looking at higher costs for:

- Gasoline and diesel fuel
- Employee health insurance.
- New York State Retirement Systems.

In the 2008-09 school year, the district budgeted \$8.7 million for salaries and \$4.1 million for benefits. In the proposed budget, \$7.6 million is budgeted for salaries and \$4.8 million for benefits. So, in just four years, despite the cutting of numerous positions, the cost of employee benefits has increased by \$700,000 or about 17%. Of this amount, \$311,000 is attribut-

able to increased costs for state retirement systems in this year alone. The amount of these contributions is dictated by the state.

### Proposed reductions in spending include:

- Textbooks - \$19,011.67
- Students With Disabilities - \$38,253.31
- Special schools - \$29,600
- Instructional media - \$58,397.79
- Pupil services - \$14,295.50

### What happens if a majority of voters don't approve the budget?

If a majority of Fort Plain residents vote "no" on the budget on May 17, the school board can either schedule another vote or adopt a contingent budget.

If the budget is defeated a second time, the board would have to adopt a contingent budget which would put a cap on new spending. Some exclusions, i.e. approved capital debt service expenditures are allowed.

If a contingent budget is adopted, because the proposed budget is more than \$500,000 below the contingent level, no additional cuts in programs or staff would be required. However, most "downtown" bus runs would be suspended unless \$2,000 in specific donations were raised, and non-school related use of buildings would require a charge.

**Fort Plain Central School**  
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LOCAL BOXHOLDER

**BUDGET HEARING:  
TUESDAY, MAY 3**

7:00 p.m. in the

music suite at Harry Hoag  
Elementary School

**REMEMBER TO VOTE  
TUESDAY, MAY 17**

Polls are open from 11 a.m. to  
9 p.m. in the Harry Hoag  
Elementary School gymnasium



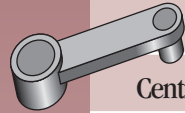
# Fort Plain Budget Vote

- Fort Plain
- Central
- School
- District

**Tuesday, May 17**

# Fort Plain Budget Vote

on Tuesday, May 17



Residents of the Fort Plain

Central School District will go to the

polls on Tuesday, May 17 to vote on

the proposed 2011-12 school budget.

Voters will also elect three candidates

to serve on the board of education.

Polls will be open from 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.

in the elementary school gymnasium.

By law, voters must be U.S. citizens age

18 or older, and residents of the district

for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Advance registration is NOT required.

Please take the time to learn about the

proposed school budget during a public

hearing to be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday,

May 3, in the music suite at Harry Hoag

Elementary School.

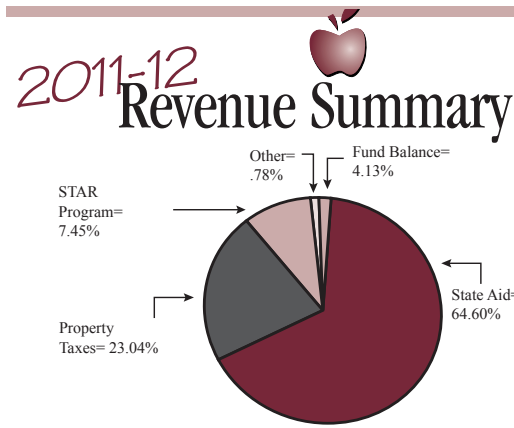
## The Proposed 2011-12 School Budget at a Glance ...

### EXPENDITURES

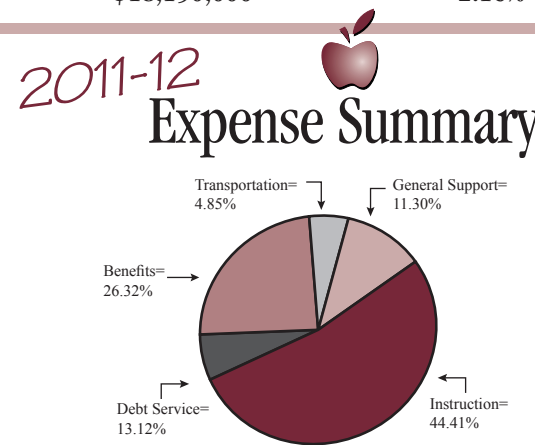
	2010-11 Budget	2011-12 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
General Support	\$2,057,170	\$2,051,625	-0.27%
Instruction	8,462,735	8,060,456	-4.75%
Pupil Transportation	957,599	879,524	-8.15%
Employee Benefits	4,504,912	4,776,809	6.04%
Debt Service & Related Transfers	2,567,584	2,381,586	-7.24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,550,000</b>	<b>\$18,150,000</b>	<b>-2.16%</b>

### REVENUES

	2010-11 Budget	2011-12 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
State Aid	\$12,352,370	\$11,724,469	-5.08%
Property Taxes	4,070,764	4,182,528	2.75%
STAR Program	1,316,216	1,352,353	2.75%
Fund Balance	550,000	750,000	36.36%
Other	260,650	140,650	-46.04%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,550,000</b>	<b>\$18,150,000</b>	<b>-2.16%</b>



A portion of the property tax levy will be paid by the state under the School Tax Relief (STAR) program. Taxpayers throughout the state – regardless of age - will receive a reduction in their school taxes provided they've applied for the exemption. This year, there is a \$500,000 income cap to be eligible. For more information, contact your town assessor's office.



Education is a people-intensive business, and this is reflected in the budget. About two-thirds of Fort Plain's annual budget is spent on salaries and benefits, and this will continue to be the case as learning standards and expectations rise. A quality school system, quite simply, depends on a quality staff.

## Proposed BUDGET

limits the local tax impact by

- Apple icon: Cutting 17 positions including one administrator, eight teachers, four teaching assistants, one guidance counselor, one library-media specialist, one micro-computer specialist, and one teacher aide.
- Apple icon: No longer offering junior varsity fall and spring sports and reducing modified winter sports to one combined level.
- Apple icon: Eliminating field trips, reducing spending for textbooks, and eliminating the 7th and 8th grade summer program.
- Apple icon: Eliminating spending for new equipment.

### Because of the cuts, academic programs will be affected including:

- Apple icon: Loss of four upper level social studies electives, one math course, upper level English electives, one music course, and all vocal music lessons.
- Apple icon: Offering physics every other year, offering SUNY calc every other year or not at all.
- Apple icon: An increase in the size of physical education classes.
- Apple icon: Decreased remediation services in the elementary school and elimination of the Life Skills curriculum there.

### Despite the extremely difficult budget situation:

- Apple icon: The pre-k program, regional summer school for grades 9-12, and the G.E.D. program remain intact. A summer drivers education program will be offered on a tuition basis.

### The district seeks outside resources to enhance programs and services. Grant funds included:

- Apple icon: \$296,313 from federal education stabilization funding
- Apple icon: \$337,595 in federal Title I funding for remediation
- Apple icon: \$246,080 for special education programs
- Apple icon: \$105,719 for Universal pre-kindergarten
- Apple icon: \$82,748 for class-size reduction & professional development