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OA budget slashes costs, positions

On Tuesday, May 17, voters in the Owego Apalachin Central School District will go to the polls, asked to make a choice on the 2011-12 budget. The \$41,051,045 budget was adopted by the OA Board of Education on April 7. It contains a tax levy increase of 1.95 percent and a reduction in expenditures by 1.59 percent compared to the current year. This budget also eliminates nearly 45 positions.

"This has been a very painful budget season," said Dr. Bill Russell, OA superintendent of schools.

"The cuts to state aid approved by the governor and the legislature were very devastating to us and other districts around the state.

"In the Owego Apalachin district, our state aid was cut by nearly 8 percent, or \$1,385,141," he said. "If we didn't make dramatic cuts and dig deeply into our reserves and fund balance, we would have had to raise local property taxes by 9 percent to make up for the state aid cuts."

In this budget, the district will eliminate 11 teach-

ing positions and one secondary guidance counselor. It also eliminates positions of teacher's aides, teaching assistants, network assistants, a maintenance mechanic, a bus driver, a computer programmer, a computer operator, and clerk typists. Twenty of those positions were eliminated through retirements and resignations; the remaining positions were cut through layoffs.

In its final moves prior to adopting this budget,

See **Budget Page 3**



Stephen P. Jensen photo

Apalachin Elementary Welcomes Grandparents

AES welcomed students' grandparents on April 21, as the wildly popular annual event saw hundreds attend. Grandparents visited classrooms, many participating in craft projects with their grandchildren. Afterward, everyone made their way to the cafeteria for lunch together before saying goodbye for the day. **For more photos, see Pages 4 and 5.**

State audits hold OA up as example

One year ago, Owego Apalachin reported in its Budget Newsletter a summary of the Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) findings from audits of 733 school districts and BOCES statewide.

Findings from Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's report concluded that when closely examining the state's school districts, "problems" are the exception and not the rule.

In the article, DiNapoli was quoted to have said that "the overwhelming majority of school districts are honest, ethical and care only about providing the best education possible."

Those first statewide audits were part of a three-year plan spurred by major transgressions in the Long Island district of Roslyn.

Owego Apalachin passed the first audit with flying colors.

"The second time, the OSC auditors came in and looked at many different areas of our operation," said Randy Pryor, OA business official.

"They reviewed the areas of buildings and grounds, transportation, special education, and curriculum, and they were completely satisfied with their findings."

Not able to find any problematic areas to audit, the state

See **Audits Page 5**

300 OA households have variations in voting venue

This year, some voters will cast their ballots for the school budget and Board of Education candidates in a different venue. Voting locations on May 17 will now be at Apalachin Elementary school and Owego Apalachin Middle School.

Approximately 300 households will have a relocated voting venue. Below is a description of how the voting guide-

lines have been changed. If you live on one of the following roads, your polling place has changed from Apalachin Elementary School to Owego Apalachin Middle School.

- ◆ Decker Hill Road
- ◆ Depot Road
- ◆ East River Road
- ◆ Green Road
- ◆ Hunt Creek Road
- ◆ Ketchum Road

- ◆ Middle Road
- ◆ Pamela Drive
- ◆ Quarry Road
- ◆ Red Brush Road
- ◆ Sherwood Road
- ◆ Smith Creek Road
- ◆ Stanton Hill Road
- ◆ Sulpher Springs Road
- ◆ Taylor Road

If you do not live on one of the roads listed above and your voting location has been

Apalachin Elementary School in the past, it remains the same this year.

Everyone who has voted at Owego Elementary School in the past will now vote at Owego Apalachin Middle School.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please call Marcy Hill, clerk of the Board of Education, at 687-6215.

OFA swimmers celebrate success

By Jason Westervelt, head coach

Boys Win Ninth Straight Section 4 Class B Title

The OFA boys swimming and diving team had what I'd call a miracle 2010-2011 season. Through hard work, determination and commitment, they pulled off one of the biggest upsets in Section 4 Class B history.

The boys finished with an 8-1 record, losing to powerhouse Maine-Endwell early in the season. After that loss, the boys buckled down and committed themselves to the team and their goals. They came out of the Christmas break with a new attitude. The rest of the season spoke for itself.

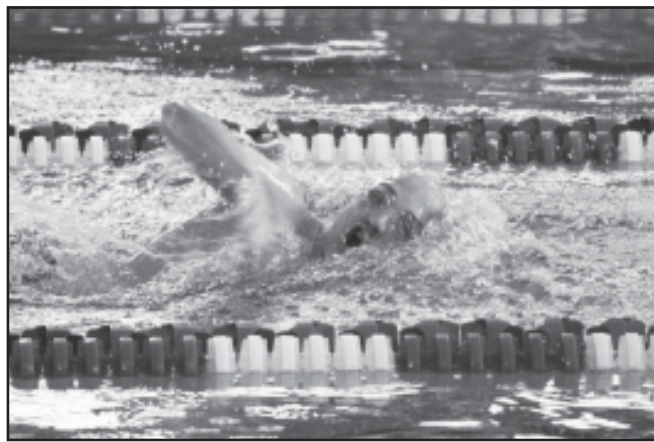
After the break, OFA didn't lose. Heading into the sectional championship, the team had confidence and momentum. Still, on paper, it would be impossible to defeat Class B favorite M-E.

Entering prelims, OFA was down by 139 points. But after prelims, the deficit had been trimmed to 58 points. After diving, the team trailed by just 27 points.

In the end, OFA made up a total of 160 points and won the meet by 21 for the sectional title, and the boys' program's ninth consecutive sectional win.

Individually, OFA had 5 five conference all-stars and four conference all-stars.

Jake Mendelson qualified for the New York state championship meet in the 200 freestyle. There, he placed 14th in the state, and 21st in the federation rankings.



Girls Win Second Straight

The Owego Free Academy girls swimming and diving team had an outstanding 2011 season, finishing with a 10-1 record and winning their second consecutive Section 4 Class B championship. The team's only loss was to undefeated Chenango Valley.

The girls capped off a dream season with the sectional title and a shot at a state title. The girls placed first in eight of 12 events at the sectional championship meet.

They also qualified for the New York state championship meet in eight events, the most by any team in Section 4. At the state meet, OFA finished a close second, capping a terrific campaign.

Individual accolades:

◆ Devon McFadden broke the school record in the 200 individual medley.

◆ Luci Kovalovsky broke the school record in the 100 backstroke.

◆ Jinell Holden, Jamie Zielinski, Kovalovsky, and McFadden broke the school record and the sectional meet record in the 400 freestyle relay.



Jenkins Signs, Will Play Softball at Mansfield U.

Owego Free Academy senior Alanna Jenkins recently signed a letter of intent to attend Mansfield University, where she will play softball for the Mountaineers.

Jenkins is a four-year starting catcher at OFA who was selected to the STAC All-Division team after both her sophomore and junior seasons. She also plays third base for the Indians. Jenkins is ranked 8th in the Class of 2011. She carries a grade-point average of 3.6.

Jenkins is pictured at left, cutting a celebratory cake after her signing. She is also pictured, with her softball teammates, in the photo at far left.

Budget *Continued from Page 1*

the board amended the document twice, rejecting a proposed cut to the secondary nursing staff, and restoring \$30,000 to after-school and summer enrichment programs for students.

Regional Impact

Owego Apalachin is among hundreds of school districts statewide that are cutting jobs in order to make ends meet. In fact, locally, hundreds of school-related jobs will be lost in next year's budgets.

In an April 27 Press & Sun-Bulletin report, Al Buyck, Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services superintendent, announced that school districts across our region will eliminate 436 positions in their 2011-2012 budgets. Buyck said these cuts will have local economic implications.

"We could end up with an exodus of professional employees as they move to other areas," Buyck said during a press briefing. Broome-Tioga BOCES is an agency that provides shared services to 15 Broome and Tioga county school districts.

According to Buyck, the following statistics relate to those positions being lost:

- ♦The 436 positions represent about 6 percent of the combined workforce in the 15 districts.

- ♦Of the 436 positions, 165 will go unfilled due to retirements, relocations or reassignments.

- ♦Another 271 employees will be laid off before the start of the next school year.

- ♦Of the 436 positions, 18 are administrative; 184 are teachers and other instructional staff; and 234 are support positions, including bus drivers, janitors, aides, monitors and clerical help.

Buyck said he believes the regional job loss will have considerable economic implications for Broome and Tioga counties, including a combined salary loss of \$16.35 million.

While OA will see 45 positions go, other neighboring districts will feel a similar sting. Budget figures released by individual school districts include 47.6 staff cuts in Binghamton, 50 in Union-Endicott and 47.5 in Vestal. These are the region's three largest school districts.

Substantial Cuts

"All areas of the budget, including athletics, administrative costs, transportation, maintenance, supplies, public relations, and equipment were also cut," noted Randy Pryor, the district's business official. "Nothing was sacred as we tried to find ways to reduce our budget."

The district will also use a substantial amount of reserves, fund balance, and one-time revenues, totaling \$1,344,255 to make up for the state aid shortfall and balance the budget.

"We're fortunate to have some savings to draw on in

Notable Cuts in the 2011-2012 Budget

- ♦**Equipment** – reduced by \$82,835
- ♦**Supplies** – reduced by \$15,201
- ♦**Fitness Center at OFA** – no longer will be open to the public and will save \$16,400
- ♦**Community swimming program** – reduced by \$20,000
- ♦**Elimination of most community use of facilities on Sundays**
- ♦**Overtime** – reduced by \$20,350
- ♦**Professional development/conferences/travel** – reduced by \$10,270
- ♦**Elimination of the modified golf team** - \$3,655
- ♦**Elimination of JV cheerleading (football and basketball)** - \$6,856
- ♦**Trimming modified volleyball from two teams to one** - \$3,811
- ♦**Elimination of the badminton and table tennis teams** - \$1,000
- ♦**Elimination of boys volleyball** - \$1,000
- ♦**Elimination of assistant varsity boys and girls lacrosse coaches** - \$7,142
- ♦**Trimming assistant varsity football coaches from three to two** - \$4,763
- ♦**Trimming assistant varsity track coaches from three to two** - \$4,083
- ♦**An overall reduction in the athletics budget of 11.41 percent**

OWEGO-APALACHIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2011-2012 BUDGET
4/25/11 FINAL

EXPENDITURE BY OBJECT CODE	2007-2008 FINAL EXPENSES	2008-2009 FINAL EXPENSES	2009-2010 FINAL EXPENSES	2010-2011 ORIGINAL BUDGET	2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET	BUDGET TO BUDGET VARIANCE	% CHANGE
120 TEACHERS SAL. K-6	3,584,429	3,925,016	4,013,196	4,306,247	3,953,832	(352,415)	-8.2%
121 TEACHING ASSISTANTS	178,546	185,598	240,292	255,047	236,165	(18,882)	-6.6%
127 EXTRA DUTY	96,938	47,598	36,194	74,837	55,596	(19,071)	-25.6%
130 INSTRUCTIONAL SAL. 7-12	4,072,884	4,200,278	4,418,763	4,174,916	4,196,753	21,837	0.5%
131 TEACHING ASSISTANTS	87,520	89,016	100,334	107,810	87,555	(20,255)	-18.8%
137 EXTRA DUTY	214,263	247,757	285,824	254,200	180,605	(73,595)	-29.0%
140 INSTRUCTIONAL SUBSTITUTES	490,080	428,569	378,415	410,000	410,000	-	0.0%
150 INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES	1,505,214	1,659,131	2,045,130	1,947,338	1,348,063	(599,275)	-30.8%
151 ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES	855,135	846,117	938,434	988,920	1,006,128	17,208	1.7%
152 SUMMER SERVICES	40,670	34,142	38,926	49,590	37,165	(12,425)	-25.1%
153 GUIDANCE SALARIES	278,656	300,895	317,766	321,854	260,320	(61,534)	-19.1%
154 INSTRUCTIONAL SAL. - LIBRARY	177,476	196,237	206,319	211,773	221,439	9,666	4.6%
155 INSTRUCTIONAL SAL-HEALTH	58,272	61,570	64,704	67,293	69,155	1,862	2.8%
156 INSTRUCTIONAL SAL-ATHLETIC	333,125	356,395	382,025	380,143	346,643	(31,500)	-8.3%
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES	11,915,186	12,586,306	13,466,323	13,549,769	12,413,389	(1,136,380)	-8.4%
160 NON-INSTR. SALARIES	292,795	306,312	373,823	397,646	441,719	44,073	11.1%
161 SUPERVISOR SALARIES	192,375	217,167	228,480	238,195	243,252	5,057	2.1%
162 CLERICAL SALARIES	571,522	594,607	682,580	660,532	589,569	(70,963)	-10.7%
163 MECHANICS SALARIES	462,857	481,121	519,681	543,190	475,300	(67,890)	-12.5%
164 CUSTODIAN CLEANERS SAL	572,892	577,449	592,477	632,880	604,365	(28,495)	-4.5%
165 BUS DRIVER SALARIES	680,419	732,595	755,435	755,000	696,022	(58,978)	-7.5%
166 REG NURSE SUBSTITUTE	7,658	9,348	5,112	7,000	6,275	(725)	-10.4%
167 TEACHER AIDE SALARIES	669,474	932,361	635,662	698,410	828,856	132,446	19.0%
168 TEMPORARY HELP	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
169 SUBSTITUTE SALARIES	205,946	160,258	165,240	177,448	169,600	(7,849)	-4.4%
170 OVERTIME	179,183	146,386	122,292	150,000	129,650	(20,350)	-13.6%
TOTAL NON-INSTRUCT. SALARIES	4,045,120	4,159,605	4,080,782	4,256,281	4,166,608	(71,673)	-1.7%
200 EQUIPMENT	91,246	142,474	302,330	145,000	62,165	(82,835)	-57.1%
220 COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	42,559	45,553	43,346	41,803	41,650	47	0.1%
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	133,805	188,028	345,676	186,803	103,815	(82,788)	-44.4%

EXPENDITURE BY OBJECT CODE	2007-2008 FINAL EXPENSES	2008-2009 FINAL EXPENSES	2009-2010 FINAL EXPENSES	2010-2011 ORIGINAL BUDGET	2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET	BUDGET TO BUDGET VARIANCE	% CHANGE
400 CONTRACTUAL & OTHER	602,325	707,431	752,648	710,071	567,890	(122,211)	-17.2%
401 CONFERENCES/MILEAGE	11,382	16,554	11,687	14,800	12,530	(2,270)	-15.3%
402 EQUIPMENT REPAIRS & MNT	105,605	100,034	93,821	104,330	102,665	(1,665)	-1.6%
404 BUILDING REPAIR & MNT	62,872	169,741	293,432	46,750	41,250	(5,500)	-11.8%
405 RECONDITIONING	-	8,217	17,823	25,000	15,000	(10,000)	-40.0%
412 VEHICLE FUEL	283,794	230,425	219,797	290,200	340,500	50,300	17.3%
413 TIRE EXPENSE-SERVICE	17,690	17,669	31,633	21,000	21,000	-	0.0%
414 BUS REPAIRS - SERVICE	30,519	18,765	16,454	15,000	10,000	(5,000)	-33.3%
415 BUS LUBE OIL FLUIDS	19,398	10,123	7,811	14,000	12,000	(2,000)	-14.3%
416 BUS DRIVER PHYSICALS/TEST	6,446	6,376	8,090	9,500	9,500	-	0.0%
420 UNALLOCATED INSURANCE	193,732	206,113	207,503	215,000	215,000	-	0.0%
427 PROFESSIONAL DEV/CONF	32,339	37,063	49,336	44,500	36,500	(8,000)	-18.0%
428 PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP	13,390	12,838	15,800	17,725	17,790	65	0.4%
431 ELECTRICITY	313,930	301,110	307,026	320,000	320,000	-	0.0%
432 WATER/SEWER	43,780	58,500	57,999	61,500	62,000	900	0.8%
433 TELEPHONE EXPENSE	10,189	10,127	10,976	11,000	11,000	-	0.0%
434 BUILDING FUEL	689,482	623,409	601,646	651,000	653,000	2,000	0.3%
445 INVENTORIED MATERIALS	7,820	2,101	1,789	-	-	-	0.0%
450 MATERIAL & SUPPLIES	594,927	562,340	584,350	452,400	437,199	(15,201)	-3.4%
451 PAPER & RELATED EXPENSE	2,753	47,999	21,579	29,950	26,450	(3,500)	-11.7%
453 TIRE EXPENSE-SUPPLIES	12,902	9,140	19,350	21,000	21,000	-	0.0%
454 BUS PARTS/REPAIRS-SUPP	81,750	82,932	128,024	88,000	60,600	(27,400)	-31.1%
455 UNIFORMS	-	-	13,312	1,688	1,688	(11,624)	100.0%
460 LIBRARY BOOKS	23,219	39,847	66,836	25,550	24,775	(775)	-3.0%
461 PERIODICALS	7,747	10,633	7,656	11,180	11,180	-	0.0%
462 SOFTWARE	37,001	35,644	38,156	35,000	35,000	-	0.0%
470 TUITION OTHER DISTRICTS	174,656	237,495	235,984	255,000	215,000	(40,000)	-15.7%
471 TUITION REIMB - EMPLOYEE	30	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
480 DW TEXTBOOKS K-6	63,492	77,590	95,326	67,500	67,500	-	0.0%
481 DW TEXTBOOKS 7-12	70,899	192,241	64,540	67,500	67,500	-	0.0%
480 SERVICES FROM BOCES	5,138,083	5,438,272	4,956,436	5,037,593	4,813,736	(223,857)	-4.4%
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL EXPENSES	8,652,113	9,302,961	8,894,720	8,675,361	8,249,223	(426,138)	-4.9%

EXPENDITURE BY OBJECT CODE	2007-2008 FINAL EXPENSES	2008-2009 FINAL EXPENSES	2009-2010 FINAL EXPENSES	2010-2011 ORIGINAL BUDGET	2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET	BUDGET TO BUDGET VARIANCE	% CHANGE
610 PRINCIPAL ON INDEBTEDNESS	1,810,000	1,596,196	1,737,844	2,480,829	2,573,820	82,991	3.3%
710 INTEREST	1,243,056	1,185,007	1,146,217	1,315,882	1,374,528	58,646	4.5%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	3,053,056	2,781,203	2,884,061	3,806,711	3,948,348	141,637	3.7%
800 STATE RETIREMENT-ERS	302,283	283,979	354,733	525,000	765,000	240,000	45.7%
800 TEACHER'S RETIREMENT-TRS	1,017,220	958,798	796,104	1,185,161	1,385,000	199,839	16.9%
800 SOCIAL SECURITY	1,171,447	1,240,813	1,293,030	1,354,701	1,272,662	(82,039)	-6.1%
800 WORKERS COMPENSATION	143,334	144,278	130,726	129,520	146,782	16,862	13.0%
800 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	7,351	6,224	27,171	18,400	170,000	151,600	823.9%
800 HEALTH/DENTAL INSURANCE	5,274,449	5,464,039	5,678,032	7,995,840	8,380,218	384,378	4.8%
TOTAL BENEFITS	7,916,083	8,098,133	8,261,796	11,209,023	12,119,662	910,639	8.1%
900 INTERFUND TRANSFER	2,350,000	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
950 TRANSFER - FEDERAL	16,431	14,605	17,608	30,000	30,000	-	0.0%
TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS	2,366,431	14,605	17,608	30,000	30,000	-	0.0%
GRAND TOTAL	38,081,793	37,132,840	37,950,954	41,715,747	41,051,045	(664,703)	-1.59%

these difficult times," said Dr. Russell, "but given that we had to use \$1,450,000 from savings during the current year, we're quite concerned that we will exhaust these resources very quickly if there is not some effective remedy to the school budget crisis in the state."

For the fourth straight year, the increase in OA's tax

levy is below 2 percent. It's among the lowest tax increases in the region, and nearly half the percent increase of the state's average for public schools.

In a recent Gannett Albany Bureau news article, it was reported that in New York state, schools are seeking an average 3.4 percent increase in the property tax levy in the 2011-12

school year, which starts July 1. This data was released by the state Department of Education.

Containing Costs

Those tax hikes accompany a state public school average of a 1.25 percent increase in spending. It's worth noting again that Owego Apalachin not only held its spending in check, but actually cut spending by

1.59 percent in the coming school year's budget.

Meanwhile, as business groups across the state have lobbied for a 2 percent school tax cap to be enacted, OA held its tax levy increase under that number.

"It was a difficult and lengthy process for the superintendent and his staff to be able to present a workable budget to us," said Lee Dunham, OA board member. "And once we had the budget, it was difficult as a board to decide what to restore – if anything at all – and what to leave out for 2011-2012."

"When all is said and done, our expenditures are down from last year's budget, and we were still able to keep the tax levy increase under 2 percent," Dunham said.

"We hope we're presenting a budget the taxpayers will accept. Along with so many other school districts, we have a long road ahead and we're looking at every avenue possible so we won't need to hurt programs in the future."

"Our goals were to protect our high-quality programs and services for students," Dr. Russell said. "Also, to protect taxpayers from excessive tax increases, to maintain adequate staff to deliver programs and services to students, and to be prudent in any use of fund balance and reserves to balance the budget. I think we met those goals, though only with a lot of hard work."

A Broad View

"The board took a broad view that it's not just this year's budget we had to look at," said Gene Cvik, OA board member. "We looked at four years, and clearly, the picture won't get any easier. Every school district across New York state has its own issues, and many of them are common to what Owego Apalachin is going through."

Of the teaching positions being eliminated, three are elementary school teachers, three are special education teachers (one each at Owego Free Academy, Owego Apalachin Middle School and Owego Elementary School) and five are secondary teachers (social studies, vocal music, home & careers, physical education and English (one-half ELA, one-half GED)). One guidance position will be eliminated.

Despite these cuts, no academic programs have been eliminated. One trickle-down will be moderately larger class sizes. OA has also eliminated the "teaming" structure for teachers at the middle school and will lean even more toward the shared staff approach between the high school and middle school buildings.

"As far as our budget," Cvik added, "I think we did as good a job as we could. We made a number of painful cuts and we used a fair amount of reserves to keep the tax levy increase as low as possible."



Grandparents' Day

at AES (April 21)

Stephen P. Jensen photos



Audits Continued from Page 1

comptroller's office instead requested to conduct a "positive" audit of OA as part of a multi-district effort to examine energy conservation. What the comptroller's auditors found was a bit of a surprise to them, Pryor said.

"We've always done very well (in audits)," Pryor noted. "We've never had a problem. But with this one, the state came in and found things they had not seen in other districts."

The good news?

"That audit led to the comptroller's office actually holding OA up as a statewide example of solid practices in the area of energy conservation," Pryor said.

The OA district began using an energy management system in 1999 as part of a large energy capital project. In 2002, the contractor that provides maintenance on the system contacted district officials and advised them that they could save further money on energy costs if they utilized more of their system's capabilities.

District officials then took steps to more fully utilize their system, utilizing specialists from the vendor, working with district officials and staff to determine how their system was being used and how it could be used to save energy, reads the comptroller's report.

"At the conclusion of this program, in March 2004, district officials established and implemented energy conservation procedures over building lighting, heating, and cooling, along with staff procedures over non-District-owned electronic equipment usage," the auditors noted.

"The new procedures required that, during the normal instructional year (September through June), all inside lighting operates in security mode from 30 minutes after the last buses leave the buildings to 30 minutes before students arrive.

"Outside lighting is controlled by timers that turn these lights on 30 minutes prior to student arrival and off 30 minutes after student departure," according to the report's findings.

"Timers are updated monthly to prevent lights remaining on while there is adequate sunlight. During the summer months, internal building lighting operates in security mode and external lighting is off except when special events are planned or summer school is conducted in a building; in these instances district officials follow normal instructional year procedures."

Additionally, the report reads, these new procedures provided that non-district electronic equipment, such as personal electronic coffee pots, fans or radios, would be allowed only with the district's energy specialist's approval.

All non-district electronic equipment is tagged once it is approved for use; this way, spot checks can easily be conducted to ensure compliance with these procedures.

The report also specifically lauds the district's newly implemented heating and cooling procedures, which require setting heating and cooling zones for occupied and non-occupied areas.

"District officials used the capabilities of their system to ensure that their energy conservation procedures were followed," the report states. "The district's energy specialist pre-programmed the system with security mode times, external lighting timers, and occupied and non-occupied times and set points.

"Prior to establishing energy conservation procedures and programming the system, district officials reported that all of their buildings were being heated or cooled, and that lights were turned on, for a total of 453 hours per day. After establishing these procedures and fully utilizing their system, they were able to reduce these hours of energy consumption by 38 percent to 283 hours per day."

District officials also reported that they reduced the number of therms used to heat district buildings, reads the report.

The district saved approximately \$1.4 million in electric and natural gas costs for the period of May 2004 through March 2010," the report states. "Furthermore, we estimate that the district will continue to save approximately \$252,000 annually."

Pryor said he believes that the state comptroller's office was so impressed with the energy conservation audit that they again approached OA, hoping to use the district as another example statewide.

This time, they'd focus on OA's transportation operation.

"They told us, point blank, that the reason they came back to us is because we have excellent data," Pryor said.

"We know, for example, we can pull up information on miles per gallon for each of our buses.

"We know exactly what it costs to run each and every bus, from the cost of parts, to the mechanics, to the fuel. Tony Quaranta's department is very detailed in their work. For example, Cliff Halliday (OA head mechanic) can tell you anything you want to know about any one of our vehicles at the drop of a hat."

The audit looked into the difference between propane-fueled buses vs. those operating on diesel fuel.

"That was their initial reason for coming to see us," said Quaranta, "and darned if it didn't turn into a full audit of our transportation department. We welcomed it.

"Whenever you do a self-reflection or have an outside agency come in to look at your operation, you ultimately learn something about your operation," Quaranta added.

"You learn things that will be able to help your internal operation. And you learn more about the industry in which you operate."

"With this type of audit," Pryor said, "it's truly an honor to be chosen."

"We're never opposed to having an audit," Quaranta said, "because we're confident we'll always find something positive."

ESTIMATED REVENUES - 2011-2012
Owego Apalachin Central School District

Source	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Projected 2011-12	Change from Previous Year	
					\$	%
State Aid						
Foundation Aid	\$ 12,183,169	\$ 12,183,267	\$ 12,183,267	\$ 12,183,267	\$ -	0.0%
Gap Elimination Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (3,347,560)	\$ (3,488,966)	\$ (141,406)	4.2%
ARRA Federal Stimulus Funds			\$ 1,136,566	\$ -		
ED JOBS Federal Stimulus Funds			\$ -	\$ 951,302	\$ (185,264)	-16.3%
BOCES	\$ 1,925,296	\$ 2,324,929	\$ 2,020,000	\$ 1,840,000	\$ (180,000)	-8.9%
Excess Cost-Public High Cost	\$ 130,944	\$ 279,170	\$ 192,664	\$ 179,526	\$ (13,138)	-6.8%
Excess Cost-Private High Cost	\$ -	\$ 20,679	\$ 85,546	\$ 175,643	\$ 90,097	105.3%
Transportation	\$ 1,681,171	\$ 1,844,320	\$ 1,997,759	\$ 1,997,055	\$ (704)	0.0%
Hardware & Technology	\$ 33,957	\$ 42,095	\$ 41,708	\$ 41,603	\$ (105)	-0.3%
Textbook	\$ 130,365	\$ 136,072	\$ 135,432	\$ 133,451	\$ (1,981)	-1.5%
Library Materials	\$ 14,287	\$ 14,418	\$ 14,556	\$ 14,162	\$ (394)	-2.7%
Software	\$ 33,930	\$ 34,559	\$ 34,888	\$ 33,944	\$ (944)	-2.7%
Building Aid	\$ 2,289,134	\$ 2,178,999	\$ 3,205,354	\$ 3,205,354	\$ -	0.0%
Supplemental Excess Cost Aid	\$ 15,944	\$ 19,678	\$ 19,678	\$ 19,678	\$ -	0.0%
TOTAL STATE AID	\$ 18,438,197	\$ 19,078,186	\$ 17,719,858	\$ 17,286,019	\$ (433,839)	-2.4%
Source	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Projected 2011-12	Change from Previous Year	
					\$	%
Miscellaneous Local Sources						
Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT)	\$ 2,544,204	\$ 2,500,852	\$ 3,036,784	\$ 3,196,784	\$ 160,000	5.3%
Day School Tuition-Individuals	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	0.0%
Day School Tuition-Other Districts	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 15,000	60.0%
Admissions	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0.0%
BOCES Services	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ (20,000)	-100.0%
Interest Earnings	\$ 475,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,000	\$ (25,000)	-25.0%
Rentals (Bus, Property BOCES)	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 141,000	\$ 141,000	\$ -	0.0%
Medicare D Distribution	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -	0.0%
Refund BOCES	\$ 370,000	\$ 370,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 430,000	\$ (20,000)	-4.4%
Refunds Other	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 473,800	\$ 483,000	\$ 9,200	1.9%
Play Receipts	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
Gifts and Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 7,000	23.3%
Unclassified Revenue	\$ 145,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000	\$ -	0.0%
Total Miscellaneous Local Sources	\$ 3,937,204	\$ 3,780,852	\$ 4,501,584	\$ 4,627,784	\$ 126,200	2.8%
Total Medicaid Reimbursement	\$ 50,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 75,000	\$ (75,000)	-50.0%
Source	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Projected 2011-12	Change from Previous Year	
					\$	%
Property Tax, Reserves, & Fund Balance						
CNYOG TAX	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Interest & Penalties Taxes	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 5,000	16.7%
Fund Balance Appropriation	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 3,850,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ (1,250,000)	-32.5%
Appropriated Reserves	\$ 337,207	\$ 310,000	\$ -	\$ 661,255	\$ 661,255	100.0%
Property Taxes	\$ 15,001,383	\$ 15,213,403	\$ 15,464,306	\$ 15,765,987	\$ 301,681	1.95%
Total Prop Tax, Reserves & Fund Balance	\$ 17,763,590	\$ 17,948,403	\$ 19,344,306	\$ 19,062,242	\$ (282,064)	-1.5%
TOTAL ALL REVENUES	\$ 40,188,991	\$ 40,862,441	\$ 41,715,748	\$ 41,051,045	\$ (664,703)	-1.59%

PROPOSITION No. 1

2011-2012 School Budget

The passage of this proposal would give approval for the proposed 2011-12 school budget in the amount of \$41,051,045

Should the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Owego Apalachin Central School District is hereby authorized to expend the amount of \$41,051,045 as shown in the statement of expenditures for the 2010-11 school year by said Board of Education and to levy the necessary taxes therefor.

Voting qualifications

You must be both qualified and registered if you wish to vote Tuesday, May 17, 2011. You are qualified if you:

- ◆ Are a U.S. citizen.
- ◆ Are at least 18 years old on the day of the vote.
- ◆ Have been a resident of the OA district for at least 30 days prior to May 17, 2011.

You are registered to vote if you voted in any voting conducted by the OA district during the past four years or if you:

- ◆ Voted in any federal, state, county, town or village voting conducted by the Tioga County Board of Elections during the past four years and, thus, your name appears on the voting register prepared by the Tioga County Board of Elections for the OA district.

Property Tax Report Card For

Owego Central School District

2010-2011 School Year (2011-2012 Budget Year)

School District Contact Person:

School District Telephone Number:

	(A) Actual 2010-2011	(B) Budgeted 2011-2012	(C) Percent Change
Total Spending	\$ 41,715,748	\$ 41,051,045	-1.59%
Total Estimated School Tax Levy*	\$ 15,464,306	\$ 15,765,987	1.95%
Public School Enrollment	2,286	2,286	0.00%
Consumer Price Index			1.60%

	(D) Actual 2010-2011	(E) Estimated 2011-2012
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 7,931,455	\$ 7,961,913
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 3,850,000	\$ 2,600,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$ 1,373,424	\$ 1,302,308
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	3.29%	3.17%

D = as of 7/1/2010
E = estimated as of 7/1/2011
Reserved Fund Balance includes the Encumbrance Reserve

2011-12 Board of Education

This year, three district residents have declared their candidacy to run for the Owego Apalachin Board of Education. On May 17, district voters will be asked to choose three candidates to fill seats. The three incumbents currently occupy those three seats. Below are brief biographies submitted by each of the three candidates.



LEE DUNHAM
dunham@oacsd.org

Lee Dunham

As an Owego Apalachin Board of Education incumbent, I'm seeking my third term. Born and raised in Owego, I'm an Owego Free Academy alumni (Class of 1979).

I served my country for 23 years and I retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer from the United States Coast Guard, and I am the chef/owner of An Affair to Remember Catering LLC. Being a local small-business owner allows me the time to continue to put my knowledge and skills to work to serve and give back to the community of Owego as a member of the school district's Board of Education.

I'm running to retain my seat with the board because I have a vested interest in the quality of education that are children are receiving. I have the commitment and dedication to provide the leadership we need to continue to steer our district in the right direction.

I also volunteer my time and services to the Tioga County Boys & Girls Club to help make it a positive place for kids.

We have some challenging fiscal times ahead of us and I want to be part of our children's success. As a community member I would be honored to serve another term on the school board. I believe in providing a well rounded quality education, much like the one I received in the OA schools, at the lowest possible cost.



LINDA FRISBIE
frisbie@oacsd.org

Linda Frisbie

I have lived in this community for 38 years, teaching English in the Owego Apalachin district for 31 years. Since my retirement in 2004, I have served as a founding member of the Family Reading Partnership of Owego Apalachin, a non-profit volunteer organization that seeks to promote literacy by distributing free books locally to young children and their families.

I also serve as an election inspector and as a driver for the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program. For recreation I enjoy reading, gardening and traveling with my husband Ben, especially to visit our grandchildren and family.

As an incumbent seeking my second term on the OA school board, I am very concerned about the challenges that today's economic realities and social climate place on public education. During my first term, I supported initiatives in technology and literacy, a continued focus on curriculum and staff development, and a capital project that brought lights to our athletic fields and considerable savings through more energy-efficient buildings, while at the same time containing costs and taxes. To do so has resulted in a challenging, heart-wrenching and frustrating balancing act.

I view public education as the backbone of any democracy, ensuring an intelligent and competent citizenry by providing all children with opportunities to be successful in school and in life. I am also very concerned about the burdens on the local taxpayers and empathetic to the difficult times that so many of our neighbors are facing.

In the face of these extremely difficult economic times, one of the primary goals of the district and the Board of Education has been to protect our local taxpayers. A history of our tax levies and a comparison of these - both past and present - to neighboring school districts supports this goal.

However, as a school board member, I am also charged with protecting the quality of our children's education and the programs and staff needed to support local public education. In all these endeavors, I strive to be positive, to gather data to inform my decisions, and to follow a logical and reasonable path to a productive solution or outcome.

The varied members of the current OA board offer the well balanced perspectives of this community's parents, business people, corporate professionals, retired citizens and students. With more than 30 years of teaching in this district, I offer practical and knowledgeable perspectives on education and this district's culture and history.

As a taxpayer, I am mindful of our community's fiscal challenges. As a current board member, I believe that my charge is to ensure that all students are safe, are engaged in our schools and in learning, and are challenged to reach their full potential.

And as a member of this community, I have tremendous pride in our school system and would be honored to continue to serve on its Board of Education.



BECKY GOODRICH
goodrich@oacsd.org

Becky Goodrich

As a parent of four school-age children, I believe that it is important to have members on the Owego Apalachin Board of Education who have children still attending our schools every day. The challenges that our students face today are very different than they were five, 10 or even 20 years ago.

And because so many parents are intimately involved with the daily education process, they are uniquely positioned to hear and share the successes, challenges and frustrations of both the students and parents. I have decided to run for the school board again because of this belief, and my deep and vested interest in the quality of education that our children are receiving.

I have strong administrative and financial skills, the commitment and dedication to see a task through, and would like to continue to have an influence on the practices and policies of our district.

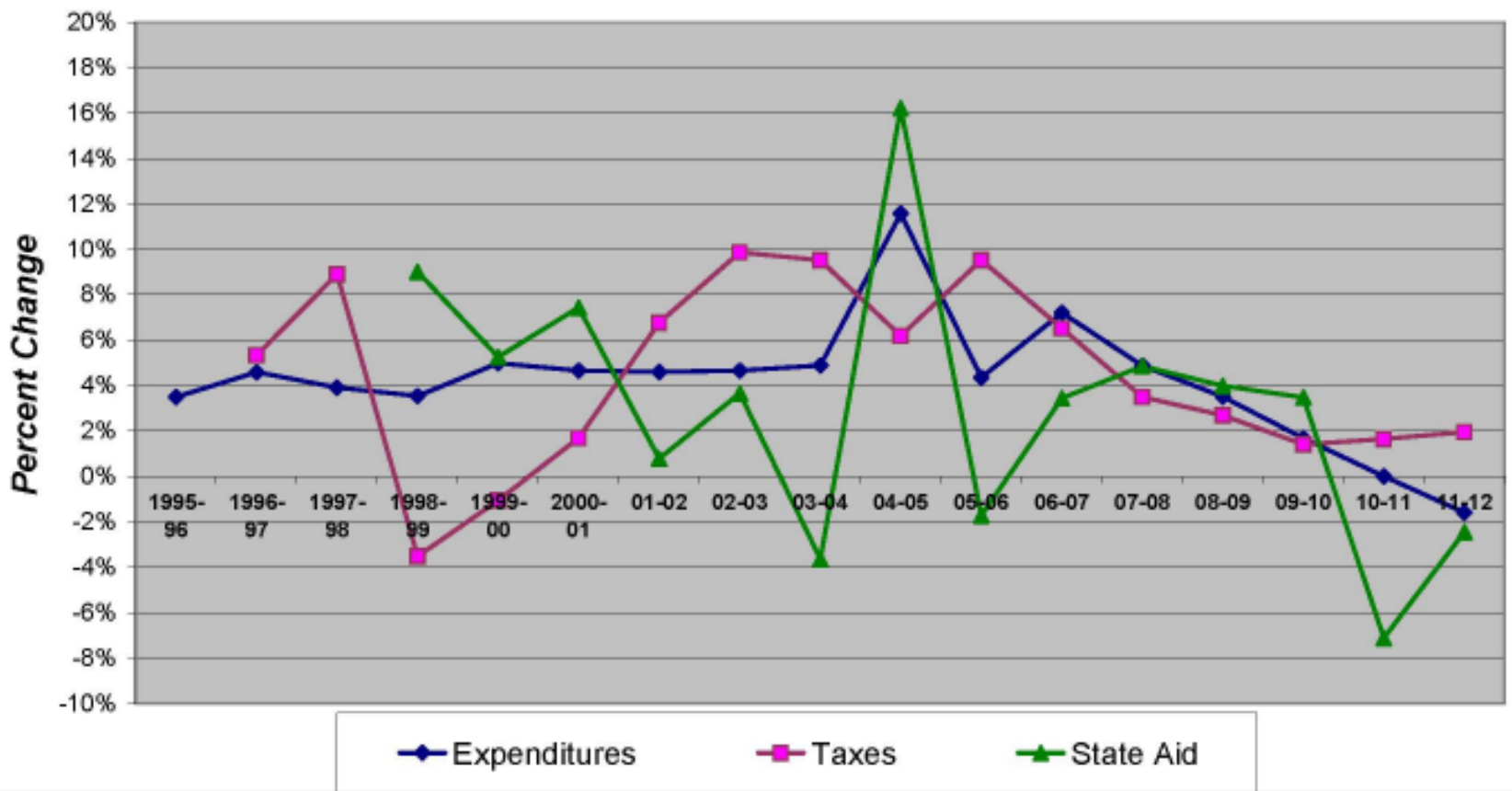
My husband, Don, and I are raising four healthy and very active children. Our eldest, Kaylee, is 18. Alexandra is 16, Caleb is 14 and Joshua is 12. My children keep me very busy with all of their activities, but when I do have some free time, I like to read, garden, knit, sew and do other crafts. I have worked for Lockheed Martin, Owego, for 25 years, first as an administrative assistant, and today as a part-time engineering assistant.

Through my children I have met many wonderful teachers and I have volunteered at Owego Elementary School, where I've co-chaired the book fair for several years. I also served on the IBO task force.

As a parent of non-traditional learners, I have educated myself on different learning styles and teaching methods and have gained a greater appreciation of the challenges facing both students and teachers. I have also come to understand that while the school system may be responsible for educating our children, it is the parents that are ultimately responsible for the education that their child receives.

I believe that the parents, the Board of Education, and the teachers are all equally important components in the education process, each bringing to the table a valuable piece of the process. And not only is it vital that they work together and respect the contributions of each other, but they must also be committed to make some of the tough decisions that need be made from time to time.

**Owego Apalachin Central School District
Annual Change in Budget, Taxes and State Aid - 1995-2011**



Note: In the graph above, the large spike in expenditures and state aid in 2004-05 is attributable to the first year of new costs and state aid associated with construction of the new middle school and transportation facility.

OA district budget - taking the long view

A key part of the Owego Apalachin district’s long-range budget strategy is to keep expenditure increases and any corresponding tax increases low, stable, and predictable.

The graph above shows the 17-year history of yearly changes in expenditures, taxes, and state school aid.

The five years at the right-hand end of the chart (2007-08 thru 2011-12)

show the implementation of this strategy.

“We remain sensitive to the concerns of our taxpayers about large tax increases,” said Dr. Bill Russell, OA superintendent of schools.

“Our Board of Education recognizes that, like any large enterprise, we will have some inevitable budget increases, but they are insistent that we keep them tightly constrained and hold any tax increases to a very modest level.”

**True Tax Rate, Owego Apalachin School District
2000 - 2010**

