

FISCAL CORNER(Continued from January)

What happens if the budget is not approved by the voters?

If a proposed budget is defeated by the voters 6 as in the past 6 the board of education has the option of putting it up for another vote at the same or modified amount, or the board of education can automatically adopt a contingency budget. If the proposed referendum is defeated twice, a contingent budget must be adopted. Certain rules that presently stand regarding contingency would remain in effect including community use of buildings, certain salary increases and new equipment purchases.

Under the new law, a district that adopts a contingency budget through a 2x budget defeat or on their own, may not increase the tax levy by any amount 6 which would impose, in effect, a 0% tax cap. We are still not sure if any exemption will apply.

Will the tax levy cap legislation affect all school districts equally?

This will have an effect on all school districts to varying degrees but it is unclear how some districts will be affected more than others. In particular, poor/rural districts with low property wealth and declining tax bases, staying within their levy limit will severely restrict their ability to generate the revenues needed to sustain core educational programs.

* This discrepancy is largely rooted in what an increasing number of school leaders say is an unfair formula for distributing aid to districts throughout the state.

If the new law doesn't actually cap tax levy increases at 2%, how will it provide property tax relief?

With or without a law capping tax levy increases, school leaders know that many New Yorkers are struggling in this economy and agree that property tax relief is needed. At the same time, we have heard firsthand from residents that they do not want tax relief at the expense of their public schools. However, living with the realities of the new law 6 while mandated costs escalate and the pressure to control taxes continues, schools will be forced to make very difficult decisions.

What can I do?

This poses an enormous challenge for all public schools in New York States. We as school leaders need to hear from our communities to help guide the districts through a very difficult decision making process. It is more important than ever to become as informed as possible. Contact you legislators and participate in the budgeting process by attending budget hearings and exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

Roxbury Central School Newsletter

February 2012

Superintendent's Message

"Every path hath a puddle." -George Herbert

Greetings:

I guess the opening quote has dual meaning for such a soggy winter. Herbert's quote also eloquently expresses the challenge all of public education is facing this day and age and RCS is not immune. As we negotiate this path into the future there will be a myriad of puddles that we must step over while making every effort to maintain the district's educational and fiscal capability.

A few days ago Governor Cuomo delivered his executive budget proposal which is grim to say the least. At first blush we are looking at an overt \$55,000 reduction in state aid but the issue is deeper than it seems. Our state aid has been frozen since 2005 and we have been fortunate to be able to reorganize through retirement. This year we are in a new light where internal reorganization is no longer an option and some hard choice will need to be made as we move forward. This freeze and cut in conjunction with the newly imposed tax levy cap has hampered our ability to raise the necessary funds to accomplish our educational mission. We will make every effort possible to reorganize and trim

from the edges as the elimination of student programs would only be a final option.

Part of the legislation that brought about the tax levy cap was the promise that we see substantive mandate relief to alleviate us from an overburdened bureaucracy of unnecessary red tape and strangling financial obligations. We hear in the media and rhetoric from our political representatives that school reform is essential but we are seeing little substance behind their words. A bright light that I am learning about is that NYS has filed a waiver with the Federal government to lighten the heavy load we must carry associated with the No Child Left Behind Act. This controversial piece of legislation has never been properly funded and NYS's implementation of it has created more roadblocks than benefits.

I am concerned about the future but with that concern I am optimistic that we as an educational community will endure this torrent of fiscal uncertainty. I am requesting your engagement in this process. I want you to ask hard questions and share your views as time goes along, here in the school, with our state legislators and at the ballot box. To the left of this newsletter is what I have coined the fiscal corner and

within the continued FAQ on the tax levy cap you will find the addresses of our local representatives. At your discretion, that information is being made available if you wish to express your concern about school funding and the lack of substance regarding their promise of mandate relief. I have spent a great deal of time in Albany speaking with these folks and they need to also hear from their wider constituency about the erosion of support they have provided to our school.

As always I am a door knock, phone call 326 -4151, ext. 14, or email (tobrien@roxburycs.org) away.

Thomas J. O'Brien

FISCAL CORNER cont.

Assemblyman Clifford W. Crouch
District Office
1 Kattelville Road
Suite 1
Binghamton, NY 13901

Albany Office
LOB 450
Albany, NY 12248

Senator John Bonacic
Albany Office
188 State Street Room 509
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247
United States

District Office
201 Dolson Avenue Suite F
Middletown, NY 10940

Principal's Message



RCS Newsletter
can now be
viewed from our

The RCS Class of 2015 is selling carnations for Valentine's Day. Flowers are \$2.00 each and may be purchased by contacting any 9th grader or filling out the form in this newsletter and sending it in with the money to the guidance office. The 9th grade will also be selling cookie dough and brittle starting February 24th. Thank you for your support.



Hello all,

Finally we have some snow! While this may bring mixed emotions for some, there is a ski team and one coach in particular happy to see that we are finally having the opportunity to hit the slopes. Also, this is the first year that my daughter is able to participate in the ski program and she and her second grade friends are having an absolute joy each Friday due largely to the hard work of the Plattekill staff, teachers and volunteers who have come together to support the program. I wish all a safe and fun ski season and want to thank upfront the dedication of our area Ski Patrolters.

Here at RCS we have transitioned into the second semester. This important milestone marks the time for reflection, change and planning. For our students, schedules may have changed and course work will be getting more challenging. It is important that as parents we recognize these changes and take the time to touch base with our little ones to be sure that things are moving as they should. Doing temperature checks with your children and their teachers shows that you care and understand the stress change can cause as well as provides the opportunity to continue to foster a relationship with the school. In the time ahead we will be

incorporating a variety of activities designed to nurture appropriate social-emotional development. At RCS, we understand the importance of creating a balance between rigorous academic standards and social development.

Look for information on bullying prevention, team building, and positive behavior supports that will keep our goal of wellness for the body and mind moving forward. Please recall last month's message on the "Resilient Mindset" and help our school build this important skill in our youth.

Thank you,
Eric Windover

Guidance News

College Acceptances

Congratulations!
Sydney Peters-SUNY Delhi,
HVCC

Seniors

SUNY applications are available in the guidance office and online.

www.suny.edu/student
You can also use the following sites for college exploration:
www.kaplan.com
www.collegeboard.com
www.yahoo.com
www.princetonreview.com

FAFSA (financial forms) will be available online, www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Homework Help Club

HHC is meeting every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3 until 4:30pm in the winter months. Grades 6-12 please come and join us! Forms are available in the guidance office.

Elementary Ski News

Friday Ski Dates:
February 3
February 10

TEST DATES REMINDER

The following are the dates for the **STATE TESTS**.

ELA-Grades 3-8-April 17-19

Math-Grades 3-8-April 25-27

Science Performance-
Grade 4-May 23-June 1

Science Performance-Grade 8-
May 23-June 1

Science Written-Grade 4-June 4

Science Written-Grade 8-June 4

REGENTS-June 13-June 22

SAT/ACT Information

SAT & ACT

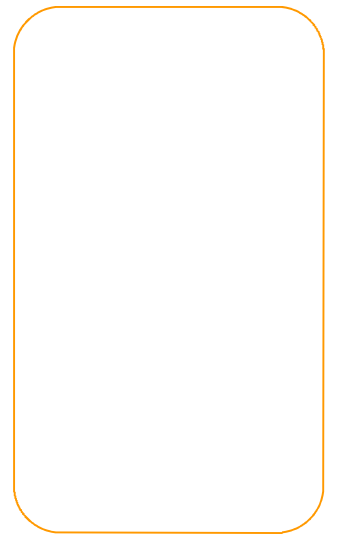
Online registration is available and strongly encouraged by the College Board. Registration forms are also in the guidance office.

SAT Dates

Test Dates	Reg Deadline
March 10	Feb. 10
May 5	April 6
June 2	May 8

ACT Dates

Test Dates	Reg Deadline
April 14	March 9
June 9	May 4





2012

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We're on the web!
www.roxburycs.org

Mission Statement

Our vision is to provide a safe and caring environment in which our students can develop academically, creatively and socially. Each member of our school community will demonstrate personal integrity, a commitment to learning and an appreciation for cultural diversity
