

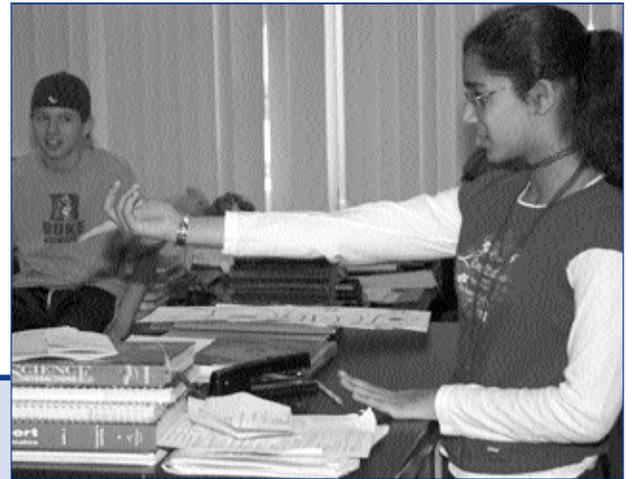
Jericho Schools Recognized For Academic Excellence

In Jericho's class of 2003, an impressive 95% of all seniors earned Regents diplomas and 76% of our graduates completed at least one Advanced Placement course. Jericho's percentages in both categories are among the highest in New York State.

Last year's student test results for the fourth and eighth grade New York State Assessments far surpassed the state norms and continue to be among the highest in the state.

Jericho Middle School Designated A Charter Member of New York State's Support Schools Network

The State Education Department recently selected the Jericho Middle School as a charter member in the Statewide Network of Middle-Level Education Support Schools. This important statewide network is designed to identify middle schools that continually implement current research and best practices as it applies to middle-level education. These schools have established themselves as model middle schools that address the academic and personal needs of their students.



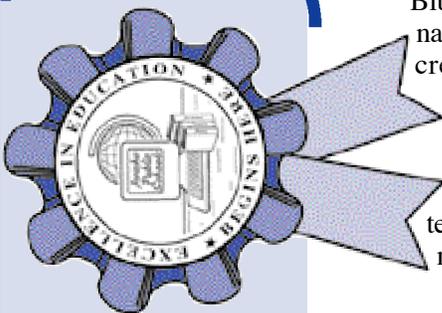
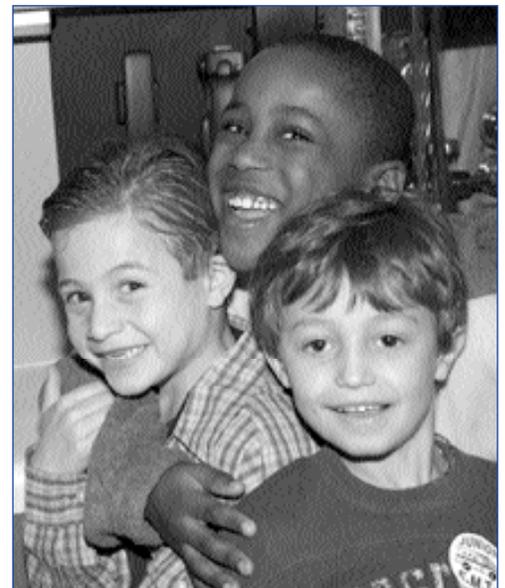
SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE:

Tuesday, May 18, 2004
12 noon - 10 p.m.
Jericho High School Gym

Robert Seaman School Named A "Blue Ribbon" School

This past year, the Robert Seaman Elementary School was named a 2003 *No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School*. This prestigious award was granted to only 215 schools across the nation by the U.S. Department of Education.

"Blue Ribbon" designations have been given out nationwide since 1982 as part of a federal program created to recognize schools for outstanding achievement. The Seaman School, which reopened in 1996 in response to an increasing student population in Jericho, was not eligible to apply for this recognition until they were in existence for a full five years. All Jericho Schools have now earned this award of national distinction.





LONG ISLAND SCHOOL REPORT CARD

When comparing Jericho with 12 similar school districts in Nassau County, our students rank:

#1 IN REGENTS DIPLOMAS

**#1 ON 4TH GRADE
ENGLISH ASSESSMENTS**

**#2 ON 4TH GRADE
MATH ASSESSMENTS**

**#1 ON 8TH GRADE
ENGLISH ASSESSMENTS**

**#1 ON 8TH GRADE
MATH ASSESSMENTS**

When comparing Jericho with these same 12 similar districts in Nassau County, our district ranks:

**#9 IN SPENDING
PER PUPIL**

Jericho Schools Promote An Enriched Learning Environment For All Students

Staff development provides district educators with new, expanded and enhanced strategies and skills to best meet the needs and interests of individual students at all levels of learning across the wide spectrum of talents and abilities.

Some of the many expanded staff training opportunities in the coming year include:

- ◆ Learning Strategies-Differentiated Instruction
- ◆ Instructional Enrichment and Enhancement
- ◆ Data Analysis
- ◆ Vertical Teaming
- ◆ Curriculum Mapping
- ◆ Special Education training to meet the diverse needs of students
- ◆ Social and Emotional Literacy
- ◆ Photoshop and Digital Imaging for Educators
- ◆ Effective Middle School Models
- ◆ Transitioning the ELL Learner into the Classroom
- ◆ Visual Literacy
- ◆ Study Skills
- ◆ Stress Reduction
- ◆ Social Skills
- ◆ Wilson Reading Training

Administrators and faculty are encouraged to model the successful implementation of these strategies for their colleagues.



Jericho Named To Prestigious “Best 100 Communities In America For Music Education”



Jericho Public Schools were named, for the third consecutive year, to “Best 100 Communities in America for Music Education.” This survey, open to all schools in the United States, represents a snapshot of music education at its best. The National School Boards Association applauds these schools and communities for seeking ways to strengthen instruction in math and reading without sacrificing other academic disciplines like music and the arts. The strong relationship between the arts and academic achievement is recognized as part of a clear vision for a comprehensive quality education.

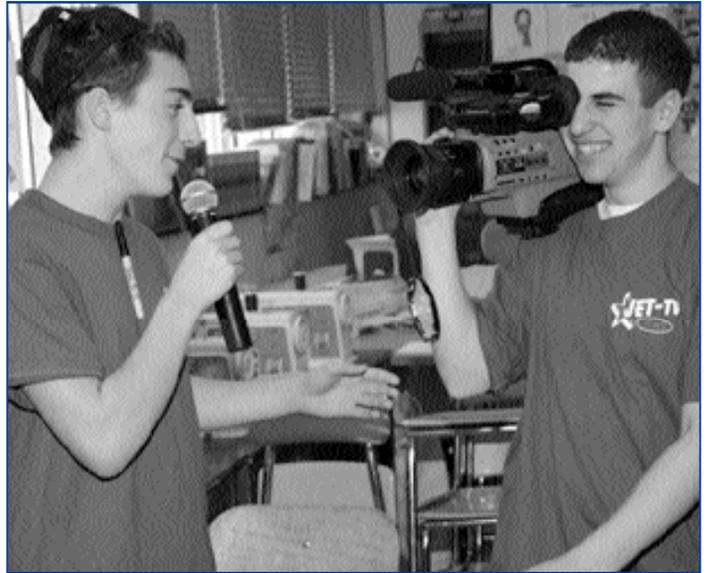
BUDGET VOTE

On Tuesday, May 18, 2004, qualified Jericho School District residents will be eligible to vote on the proposed 2004-2005 school budget. Voting will take place in the Jericho High School gymnasium between the hours of 12 noon and 10:00 p.m. In addition, one Board of Education seat, and the proposed Jericho Public Library Budget, will be on the ballot.

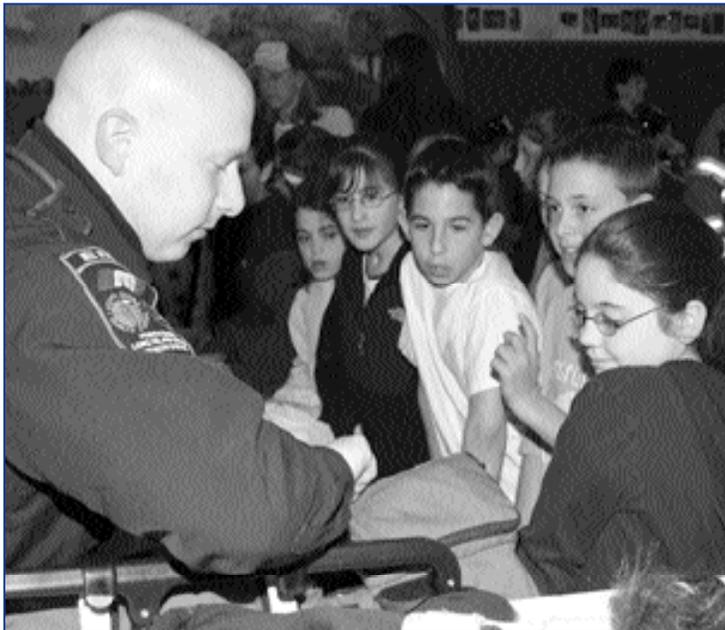
PROPOSED 2004-2005 BUDGET

After in-depth analysis and serious consideration of input from members of the community during a series of four open budget workshops, the Jericho Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2004-2005 school district budget at the March 18 Board of Education meeting. The \$77,557,541 budget represents a **9.9%** increase over last year's budgeted expenditures. The budget increase will result in a **10.6%** increase in the tax levy. "The overwhelming majority of the increases in this year's budget are the result of contractual obligations and mandatory employee benefit increases, such as the doubling of the retirement system rates and double-digit increases in health insurance," explains Superintendent of Schools Hank Grishman. "Throughout the year, the Board of Education and district administration review our educational program. Based on this ongoing evaluation, recommendations for improvements and modifications are prioritized during the budget development process. Meeting the educational needs of the children in our district always takes precedence."

"We have made every effort to provide a budget that will enhance the high quality of education that all of our residents have come to expect while maintaining our obligation to be fiscally responsible," emphasizes School Board President Hilari Cohen. "I believe that we have achieved that delicate balance with the proposed budget and, therefore, feel comfortable in presenting this budget to our voters."



The Jet-TV program trains students in all aspects of video production. As the district completes the transition to a digital studio, more opportunities will become available for middle and high school students to experience the creative processes involved in video production.



The health and safety of Jericho students and staff are always a priority. A district-wide safety committee, as well as school safety teams, constantly review and update emergency plans. Classroom activities and school events across the district focus on student health and safety throughout the school year.

MANDATED INCREASES HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE BUDGET

This year, 38% of the budget increase is attributed to the higher costs of health insurance and retirement benefits for all district employees. Excluding these increases, the proposed 2004-2005 budget increase would only be 5.5%.

Mandated New York State Retirement contribution rates have more than doubled this fiscal year. The New York State Teacher's Retirement System states: "Although recent investment returns have been encouraging, capital market returns over the last several fiscal years have been less than anticipated, leading to required increases."

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2004-2005 SCHOOL BUDGET

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2003-2004	%	2004-2005	%
INSTRUCTION	\$45,412,173	64.39%	\$49,035,974	63.23%
CENTRAL SERVICES	2,771,687	3.93%	3,030,669	3.91%
CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	226,000	0.32%	448,500	0.58%
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	5,249,925	7.44%	5,434,036	7.01%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	4,148,552	5.88%	4,371,796	5.64%
COMMUNITY SERVICES	119,900	0.17%	119,900	0.15%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	9,769,126	13.85%	12,484,816	16.10%
DEBT SERVICE & UNDISTRIBUTED	<u>2,827,125</u>	4.02%	<u>2,631,850</u>	3.38%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$70,524,488		\$77,557,541	

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

High School

Based on an ongoing review of our educational program, recommendations for improvements and modifications are anticipated at all levels. The high school is offering a number of new courses for the upcoming year. They include: Web Design, Introduction to Internet Webmaster, Computer Art I, Advanced Computer Art II, Animation I and II, American Sign Language II, Chinese Language and Culture, Spanish for Language and Culture, AP Computer Science, Principles of Engineering III, and Tournament Debate.

The high school guidance department continually looks at ways to help Jericho students maintain a competitive edge in the college admissions process. "A new counselor position will be added to the guidance program next year in order to support our expanding high school student population," states Board Vice-President Toni Meliambro. "In addition, curriculum continues to be assessed and modified to address changing SAT requirements. SAT prep classes, enhancements in the high school program planning process, a listing of valuable summer educational opportunities, and a continued effort to

develop improved relationships with the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities are just some of the ways we try to prepare our students for an optimal higher education experience."



The middle school BRAVE (Bully Reduction Anti-Violence Education) Program is one of many ways that the district supports social and emotional literacy.

Middle School

Grammar will be an area of increased focus in middle school English classes next year. A new middle school robotics club will begin to develop concepts and skills that will serve as a foundation for students with an interest in engineering. "The middle school continues to expand upon the district goal that supports social and emotional literacy," explains Board Trustee Ira Checkla. "There will be further integration of The BRAVE (Bully Reduction Anti-Violence Education) Program, Voices of Love and Freedom (a literature based program that acts as a springboard for discussion with students), and Quality Circles (an interactive program that allows students to successfully resolve conflicts) across the curricular areas."

Elementary Schools

The elementary schools will be offering enrichment in Chinese, multicultural literature, and Latin. "Two new reading specialists will be added at the elementary school level," adds Board Trustee Barbara Krieger. "This will more effectively provide for the best possible development of student skills and strategies in all areas of language arts and ensure the future success of our students." The K-5 Peer Mediation and Peaceful Playground Programs complement ongoing character and health education curricula in all schools.

Athletic Program

The district frequently updates the athletic program to reflect the interests of students. A girls' varsity golf program will be introduced in the coming year. The district hopes that the current student population will support a middle school and a junior varsity field hockey team. In addition, the middle school intramural program, which is in its second year, has been extraordinarily successful and continues to expand.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

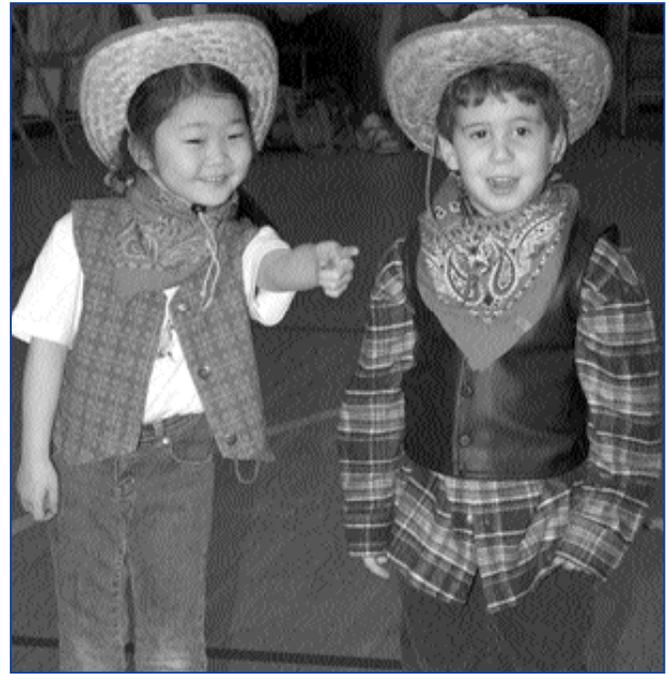
Federal and state regulations regarding services for ELL (English Language Learners) students continue to account for significant expenditures in the proposed budget. "The U.S. Office of Education and the New York State Education Department mandates considerable services for all beginning ELL students," states Board Trustee Sandra Gumerove-Bernstein. "All Jericho English language learners in grades K-12 receive comprehensive ELL support."

Supporting students with special needs also continues to have a substantial impact on the budget. "The district strives to provide essential academic support to all of our children, including those with a variety of disabilities," comments Board President Hilari Cohen. "The New York State Education Department requires that these students meet the same rigorous requirements for a Regents diploma as all other students. The fact that 95% of the 2003 graduating class received a Regents diploma is a clear indication that our tax dollars used to support every student are being wisely spent."

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING/SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

A Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on Tuesday evening, May 11, 2004, in the Jericho High School Little Theater at 7:30 p.m. All members of the community are encouraged to attend.

There is one open seat on the Board of Education this year. Sandra Gumerove-Bernstein is completing her first three-year term as a Board Trustee. Joseph Lorintz is also a candidate for the position. Members of the community will have



District educators work tirelessly to integrate and support academic excellence, personal development, and respect and tolerance for diversity. Health curriculum instruction, enrichment programs, and professional support services are all in place to facilitate the social and emotional growth for all of our students.

an opportunity to learn more about each of the candidates during "Meet the Candidate Night" on Tuesday evening, May 11, 2004 in the Jericho High School Little Theater at 8 p.m. This is an "at large" election. The candidate with the most votes will fill the open seat beginning July 1, 2004.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Cutting-edge technology is critical to the education of our students. Use of the district network has increased dramatically during the past year. In the coming year, technological improvements will focus on enhancing classroom instruction. These updates include:

- ◆ Infrastructure upgrades needed to maintain security and performance.
- ◆ Equipment upgrades, new digital editing machines and cameras to complete the transition to a digital studio Jet-TV program.
- ◆ The installation of new ceiling mounted projectors in all middle and high school computer labs and selected classrooms.
- ◆ Wireless laptop computers in the middle and high school teachers' workrooms to maximize teacher access to our network.
- ◆ An upgrade of assistive technology capabilities to better meet the needs of our students.
- ◆ Additional computers in middle and high school classrooms.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Complete copies of the proposed 2004-2005 Jericho School District budget are available in the Central Administration Office at 99 Cedar Swamp Road. Reference copies are available for inspection at all district schools and the Jericho Public Library. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 681-4100, extension 3201, with any questions. For information or questions regarding registration, voting and absentee ballots, please call 681-4100, extension 3214.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2004-2005 LIBRARY BUDGET

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2003-2004	2004-2005
LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$351,000	\$360,500
PROGRAMMING	\$45,000	\$50,000
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS	\$9,500	\$9,500
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	\$30,500	\$33,500
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$391,750	\$432,900
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$2,302,566	\$2,677,590
DEBT SERVICE	\$163,313	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,293,629	\$3,563,990
LESS TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME	\$264,093	\$51,930
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$3,029,536	\$3,512,060

Percentage Increase in the Library Tax Levy 15.93 %

Copies of the complete Jericho Library Proposed 2004-2005 Budget are available at the Jericho Public Library for inspection.

Voting Qualifications

Only persons who are qualified voters as of May 18, 2004 shall be permitted to vote in the election held on May 18, 2004 on matters affecting the Jericho School District and the Jericho Public Library.

A qualified voter is defined as:

- ◆ a citizen of the United States who is eighteen years of age or over.
- ◆ a resident in the Jericho Union Free School District for thirty days or more preceding the budget vote at which he/she offers to vote.

Persons disqualified from voting under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law are not eligible to vote in school district elections.

New voters may register and vote on the day of the election. They will be asked to provide proof of residency and age.

Budget Bulletin

**School Budget Vote,
Public Library Budget Vote
& School Board Election:**

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

12 noon - 10 p.m.

Jericho High School Gym

Jericho Union Free School District

Jericho, New York 11753

Board of Education

- Hilari Cohen, *President*
- Toni Meliambro, *Vice President*
- Ira Checkla
- Sandra Gumerove-Bernstein
- Barbara Krieger

Superintendent of Schools

Henry L. Grishman

Newsletter Editor

Mary Marks

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jerichoschools.org

