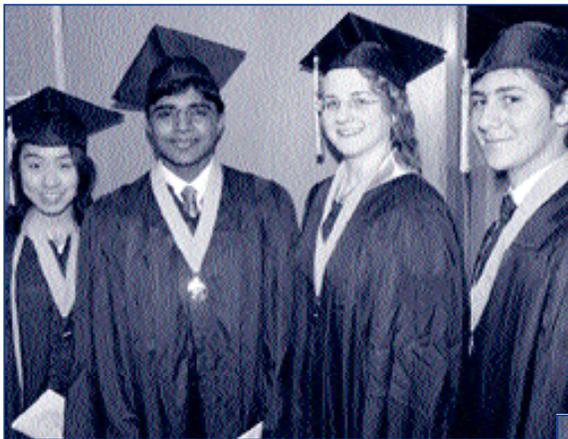


Jericho Budget Bulletin

May 2006

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 8



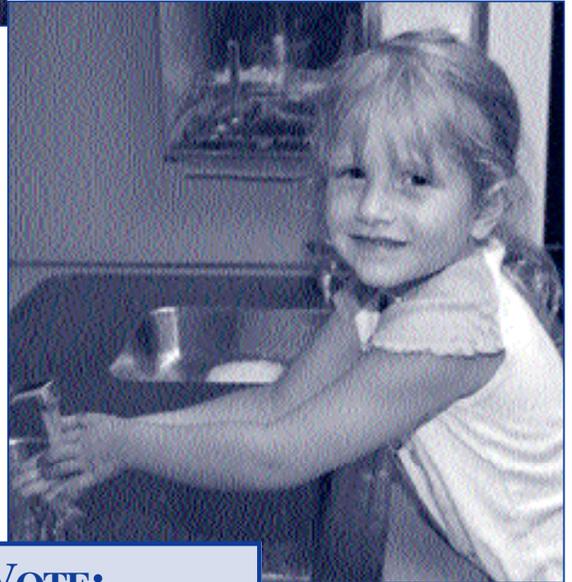
Jericho School District Recognized For Academic Excellence

In Jericho's class of 2005, an unprecedented 100% of all seniors earned Regents diplomas and 83% 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 Schools Recognized As ChildSafe "Green Clean" Schools

On Sunday, March 12, 2006, *the New York Times* reported that Jericho is one of only a few school districts on Long Island that is currently "Green Cleaning." In an effort to minimize health risks while maintaining our buildings and grounds, Jericho uses only bio-based cleaning products and non-toxic methods for weed control and lawn fertilization. The school district has been "Green" for more than three years. New legislation, which becomes effective in September 2006, will require school districts to utilize environmentally preferable cleaning agents (also known as "Green Cleaning").



SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE:

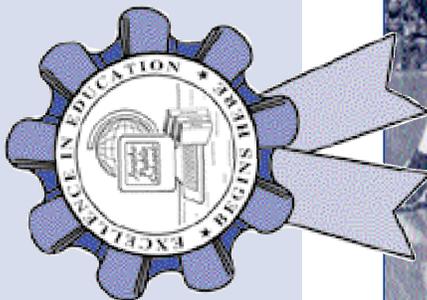
Tuesday, May 16, 2006
6 AM - 9 PM
Jericho Middle/High School Gym

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Presents Jericho High School with the "School of Distinction" Award



Lloyd Mott, Assistant Director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, presented the Jericho School District with the NYSPHSAA 2004-2005 "School of Distinction" Award at the September 2005 Board of Education Meeting. Jericho qualified for this honor after 100% of all varsity teams during the 2004-2005 school year were declared Scholar/Athlete Teams with academic averages above 90%. Only five high schools in New York qualified for this prestigious award.

In addition, NYSPHSAA awarded three Jericho teams, the Boys Varsity Basketball Team, Boys Varsity Bowling Team and Girls Varsity Bowling Team with State Scholar/Athlete Championship banners at the March 23, 2006 Board of Education meeting. Jericho is only the third school district to earn three Scholar/Athlete Championships in the same sports season in the 15-year history of this awards program.



BUDGET VOTE

On Tuesday, May 16, 2006, qualified Jericho School District residents will be eligible to vote on the proposed 2006-2007 school budget. Voting will take place in the Jericho Middle/High School gymnasium between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. In addition, two Board of Education seats, the sale of the former “Nike Site” and the proposed Jericho Public Library Budget will be on the ballot.

PROPOSED 2006-2007 BUDGET

The Jericho Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2006-2007 school district budget at an open meeting on March 23, 2006. The \$89,505,455 budget represents a **7.4%** increase over last year’s budgeted expenditures. The budget increase will result in a **7.5%** increase in the tax levy.

Since late fall, the district has hosted a series of community finance forums and open budget workshops to review the financial status of the school district. The Board of Education and District Administration encouraged input from members of the school community at each of these workshops. “We continue to seek business efficiencies in order to contain budget increases without impacting the core educational program that is so highly valued in our community,” explained School Board President Hilari Cohen. “Our independent internal and external auditors have reassured us that our business operations are exemplary, we continue to pressure state legislators to equalize funding for our district, and we are making every attempt to encourage and support alternative funding efforts.”



The Jackson PTA Multicultural Committee is exploring ways to overcome cultural and language barriers in order to make all families more at ease in our school community. This year, they will be manning a “Multicultural Voter Information Desk” at the Budget Vote from 5-9 p.m. to assist residents who are unfamiliar with the school voting process. They are prepared to provide translations in a variety of languages.

SALE OF DISTRICT PROPERTY - “NIKE SITE” (PROPOSITION #2)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Jericho Union Free School District be authorized to sell, at a price of not less than Three Million (\$3,000,000.00) Dollars, certain vacant real property located in the Village of Brookville; comprised of approximately 6.982 acres, more or less, and designated on the Tax Map of the County of Nassau as Section 17 Block 10 Lots 2 & 3; as more fully described in a legal description on file in the Office of the District Clerk; which sale shall be on substantially the terms and conditions set forth in a contract of sale on file in the Office of the District Clerk.

The Board of Education is asking voters to approve a proposition to sell approximately 7 acres of district-owned property, commonly known and referred to as the former Nike Missile Tracking Site, in the Village of Brookville, for approximately \$3 million. “The net proceeds from the sale shall be used to establish a Reserve for Tax Reduction/Stabilization,” stated Board Vice President Barbara Krieger. “The revenue, which can be used for any lawful school purpose, will provide the district with supplementary funds to support necessary capital improvements that would otherwise increase future budgets.”

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2006-2007 SCHOOL BUDGET

(PROPOSITION #1)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2005-2006	%	2006-2007	%
INSTRUCTION	\$51,921,373	62.31%	\$55,745,829	62.28%
CENTRAL SERVICES	2,840,495	3.41%	3,257,544	3.64%
CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	400,000	0.48%	450,000	0.50%
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	6,283,415	7.54%	6,133,876	6.85%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	4,418,683	5.30%	4,636,617	5.18%
COMMUNITY SERVICES	119,900	0.14%	120,525	0.14%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	14,727,405	17.67%	16,536,001	18.48%
DEBT SERVICE & UNDISTRIBUTED	<u>2,622,875</u>	<u>3.15%</u>	<u>2,625,063</u>	<u>2.93%</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 83,334,146	100%	\$ 89,505,455	100%

OBJECTIVE MEASURES OF THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL CONTROLS

"Callaghan & Nawrocki, LLP has been engaged by the Jericho Board of Education as the Internal Claims Auditor and the Internal Auditor since January 2005. Since inception of our engagement as internal claim auditors, we noted that overall performance of the District has been more than satisfactory in its purchasing policies and adheres to District policy and New York State Education Law. As the internal auditors for the District, our opinion based upon our work performed to date, indicates that there are no material weaknesses in the District's internal controls."

-Ernest Patrick Smith, CPA, CFE
Callaghan Nawrocki, LLP

"Pappas and Company (External Auditors) are engaged by the Jericho Board of Education to opine on the District's Financial Statements. On June 30, 2005, this opinion was unqualified. A review of the internal controls of the District also noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operations that were considered to be material weaknesses."

-Rhonda L. Meserole, CPA
Pappas & Company

"This Office has concluded its investigation of the complaint made by (a district resident) and has determined that the evidence does not warrant a further criminal investigation or prosecution of any individual by the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. Accordingly, our file has been closed."

-Robert L. Cavallo
Assistant District Attorney
Special Investigations Bureau

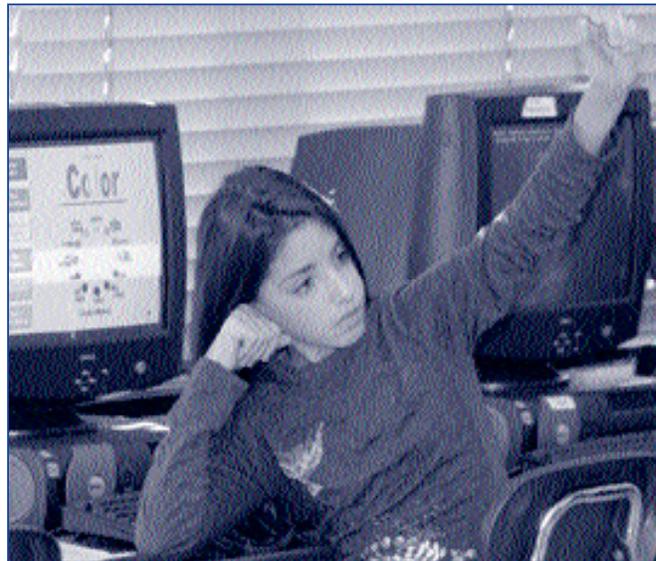
COST EFFICIENCIES

For the past three years, the district business office has used technology to improve budget management and successfully trim school costs. The district participates in two programs that not only ensure stricter budget controls, but also result in significant savings.

The Pentamation Finance System allows authorized users to order materials and supplies on-line. Before the order is approved and processed, the program verifies that there is a budget allocation. The result is instantaneous budget management.

During this school year, cooperative purchasing through Educational Data Systems has resulted in a \$226,584 savings. Educational Data Systems coordinates materials and supplies for more than 100 school districts in New York and New Jersey producing prices 64% below state contract. The district not only purchases general and office supplies through the cooperative bid, but also participates in bids for science, art, physical education, athletic and custodial supplies.

The school district's efforts to use email and parent notification by electronic means have reduced postage costs by more than \$40,000 annually. A new telephone system and service contract have reduced related costs by \$60,000 annually. Other contracts for disability, workers compensation, life and dental insurance, as well as property and liability insurance, were renegotiated to significantly reduce premiums. "We believe that it is imperative to preserve the foundation of our educational program in order for all of our children to succeed at the highest level while still being mindful of the costs to our taxpayers," said Superintendent of Schools Hank Grishman. "The district is constantly in pursuit of the effective use of technology and other strategies in order to enhance the operations of our school business office. We will continue to look for ways to maximize efficiencies and lower the costs of doing business."



Cutting-edge technology is key in preparing our students for the future. The proposed budget includes the upgrade of 290 workstations in all 5 schools, a new middle school computer lab and expanded TV studio, a new file server for Blackboard and other infrastructure upgrades and adaptive technology for students with special needs.



JERICHO SCHOOL REPORT CARD

2004-2005 School Year

100%

REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE

(INCLUDES ALL SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS)

96%

**REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE
WITH DISTINCTION**

(INCLUDES ALL SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS)

95%

**4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT
RATE**

99%

ENGLISH REGENTS PASS RATE

100%

MATH REGENTS PASS RATE

87%

8TH GRADE ELA ASSESSMENTS

(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

92%

8TH GRADE MATH ASSESSMENTS

(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

96%

4TH GRADE ELA ASSESSMENTS

(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

100%

4TH GRADE MATH ASSESSMENTS

(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

When comparing ALL districts in

Nassau County, Jericho ranks:

#39 CLASS I TAX RATE

#6 PER PUPIL SPENDING

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

The Jericho School District continually evaluates current curricular offerings and instructional strategies in light of research, changes in technology, state requirements, national standards, local expectations, and the interests and needs of individual students at all levels of learning across the wide spectrum of talents and abilities. Educational program needs and priorities are then determined accordingly.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

In an effort to supplement social emotional learning curriculum, a program entitled "Life Lessons through Literature" is being enhanced and expanded with additional literature selections at all Jericho elementary schools. This ethics program introduces students to seven concepts of character: courage, loyalty, justice, respect, hope, honesty, and compassion. Each of the elementary computer labs will be upgraded in the coming year to improve technology-based instruction. Jackson Elementary School is piloting a multicultural outreach effort in conjunction with the PTA. The goal is to reach out to all families from the community and make them feel more comfortable about getting involved in school activities. The other elementary schools are currently exploring the implementation of similar programs. In addition, schools are partnering with PTAs to expand community blood drives for the coming year.

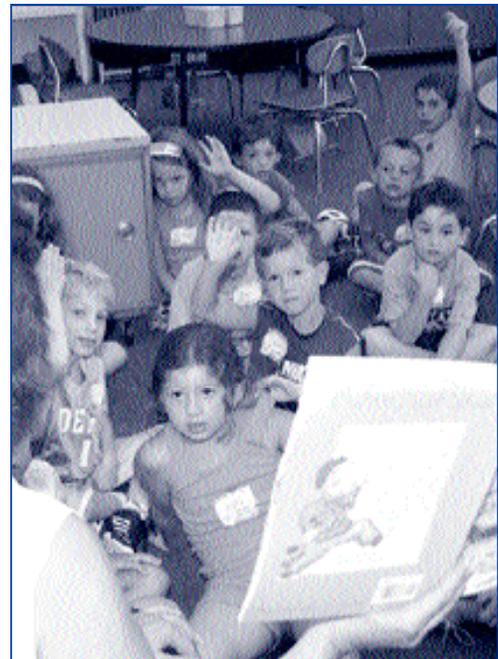
MIDDLE SCHOOL

This year, the Jericho Middle School piloted a new school report card that utilizes standards based rubrics. The new report card is designed to provide an objective measure of progress that is closely aligned with curriculum and feedback that reflects progress in integrating social and emotional learning strategies. The middle school TV studio will be expanded to accommodate the continually increasing number of interested students. A new middle school computer lab will provide additional technology-based instructional space. The three current computer labs will be updated as well. Debate classes will be expanded for the coming year to reflect student interest.

HIGH SCHOOL

Jericho High School is offering a number of new programs for the coming year including: Chinese, Marine Science, Advanced Debate, History Through Documentary Film, Sports & Culture, Teaching History Through Hollywood, American Sign Language, Advanced Sports Medicine, TV Studio Production, Pre-Calculus Research, AP Italian and Introduction to Computer Science. Classes will run based on sufficient student interest and enrollment. The four computer labs in the high school will be upgraded to adequately meet current needs. This year, Girls Varsity Badminton was successfully added to the current 47 high school teams. The guidance department is acutely aware that the applicant pool for colleges is significantly greater than in the past. They will continue to support and assist students and parents with the application process and enhance relationships with college admissions offices to better understand the criteria necessary for successful enrollment.

The extraordinary accomplishments of all of our children are a result of the successful planning and implementation of programs and services, as well as substantial community support. Jericho is truly a unique and outstanding learning environment.



The elementary "Life Lessons Through Literature" program is one of the many ways that the district supports social and emotional literacy.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Supporting students with special needs 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. The New York State Education Department insists that these students meet the same rigorous requirements for a Regents diploma as all other students. The fact that 100% of the 2005 graduating class received a Regents diploma is a clear indication that our tax dollars used to support every student are being well spent.

Federal and state regulations regarding services for ELL (English Language Learners) students are incorporated into the proposed budget. The U.S. Office of Education and the New York State Education Department mandate considerable services for all beginning ELL students. All Jericho English Language Learners in grades K-12 receive comprehensive ELL support.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING/SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

A Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on Tuesday evening, May 9, 2006, in the High School Little Theater at 7:30 p.m. All members of the community are encouraged to attend.

There are two open seats on the Board of Education this year. Hilari Cohen, the current Board President, will be stepping down after eight years of service to our community. Ira Checkla, a current Board Trustee who has served our community for 6 years, will not be seeking re-election. Mark Basile,



The Jericho Educational Foundation, a non-profit organization that is separate from the district and the Board of Education, has been established by a group of Jericho residents to enhance the schools without increasing the budget. Their first goal is to raise adequate funds to restore the high school little theater. Learn more about this organization by visiting their website, www.JerichoEducationalFoundation.org.

Jeffrey Bernstein and Shawn Gladstone are the candidates for the two open positions. Members of the community will have an opportunity to learn about each of the candidates during "Meet the Candidate Night" on Tuesday evening, May 9, 2006 in the High School Little Theater at 8 p.m. This is an "at large" election. The two candidates with the most votes will fill the two open seats beginning July 1, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Complete copies of the proposed 2006-2007 Jericho School District Budget are available on the district website and 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 203-3600, extension 3201, with any questions. For information or questions regarding registration, voting and absentee ballots, please call 203-3600, extension 3214.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Cutting-edge technology is a critical component of preparing our students for the future. Use of the district network increases dramatically each year. Technological improvements enhance communication, generate cost savings and provide students with an optimal learning environment.

The district now e-mails as much school information home as possible. Paperless communication has resulted in both faster dissemination of information and a significant savings in paper, xeroxing, envelopes and postage.

Password protected, confidential Web pages exist for each child in the district. The Web pages provide links to student:

- ◆ Contact forms (all schools)
- ◆ Standardized test reports (when available)
- ◆ Report cards and progress reports (middle and high schools)
- ◆ Documents

The proposed budget includes the following technological advances:

- ◆ Computer Upgrade Project: 290 workstations in 10 existing labs in 5 buildings
- ◆ New computer lab for the middle school
- ◆ New file server for Blackboard and other infrastructure upgrades
- ◆ Middle School TV Studio project
- ◆ Adaptive technology for students with special needs

May 2006

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2006-2007 LIBRARY BUDGET
(PROPOSITION #3)**

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2005-2006	2006-2007
LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$356,000	\$362,800
PROGRAMMING	\$56,000	\$56,000
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS	\$7,500	\$7,500
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	\$31,000	\$33,000
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$471,800	\$542,900
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$2,814,158	\$3,031,550
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$58,000	\$54,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,794,458	\$4,087,750
LESS TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME	\$55,930	\$53,430
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$3,738,528	\$4,034,320

Percentage Increase in the Library Tax Levy 7.91 %

Copies of the complete Jericho Library Proposed 2006-2007 Budget are available at the Jericho Public Library for inspection.

Voting Qualifications

Only persons who are qualified voters as of May 16, 2006 shall be permitted to vote in the election held on May 16, 2006 on matters affecting the Jericho School District and the Jericho Public Library.

A qualified voter is defined as:

- ◆ A citizen of the United States
- ◆ At least eighteen years of age
- ◆ 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, Property Sale,
School Board Election &
Public Library Budget Vote:**

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

6 AM - 9 PM

Jericho Middle/High School Gym

Jericho Union Free School District

Jericho, New York 11753

(516) 203-3600

Board of Education

Hilari Cohen, *President*

Barbara Krieger, *Vice President*

Ira Checkla

Claire M. Hochheiser

Joseph H. Lorintz

Superintendent of Schools

Henry L. Grishman

Newsletter Editor

Mary Marks



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