



Dear VA Parent Guardian,

I am writing to remind you to vote tomorrow, Tuesday, May 18, on the school district's proposed 2010-11 budget and board elections. A great deal of time and care has gone into the creation of this proposed budget. Please come out and be a part of this process. Your vote truly makes a difference.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Niskayuna High School, allowing you to vote before or after work. Parking spaces have also been reserved specifically for voters. No pre-registration is required.

Here are some facts about the budget you will vote on:

- The proposed 2010-11 budget totals \$76,453,731.
- The proposed budget carries an estimated tax levy increase of 2.4 percent for Niskayuna homeowners.
- The proposed budget increases spending by 2.64 percent.
- The proposed budget reduces spending by approximately \$2.4 million from the baseline budget, but preserves core academic programs and services.

The proposed budget supports and enhances academic programs by:

- Expanding the successful Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) program, currently offered in grades 1-2, to include grade 3 next year.
- Continuing the Explorers program an enhanced program for accelerated learners in grades 4-5 and providing more opportunities for interdisciplinary academic enrichment for all learners.
- Maintaining class-sizes at an average of 22 students or less in the elementary grades and maintaining class sizes in grades 6-12 similar to the current year.
- Increasing high school curriculum offerings with new electives in English, math, social studies and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Residents will also vote on a \$950,000 bus proposition to replace older, high-mileage vehicles, and will elect three members to the Board of Education. For more complete information about the budget, please refer to the latest issue of *Your Schools*, or visit the district web site at www.niskayunaschools.org.

If you have additional questions about the proposed budget, contact Superintendent Kevin Baughman at 377-4666, Ext. 50706 or by e-mail at kbaughman@niskayschools.org. You may also contact me directly for more information.

I encourage you to invest a few minutes of your time to vote this Tuesday. The result of the budget vote is not a foregone conclusion. The outcome is in question and your opinion counts. After voting, take a moment to browse the high school art exhibit or shop for bargains on popular fiction and non-fiction titles available for purchase at the Niskayuna Teachers Association's annual book sale.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing you at the polls on Tuesday!

Sincerely,

Luke Rakoczy
Principal
Van Antwerp Middle School