

# Mayfield

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## No program cuts in proposed budget

*Tax levy increase is 2.42%; residents go to the polls on May 15*

Mayfield Central School District residents will vote May 15 on a proposed \$17,390,462 budget for the 2012-13 school year that maintains all current programs and services.

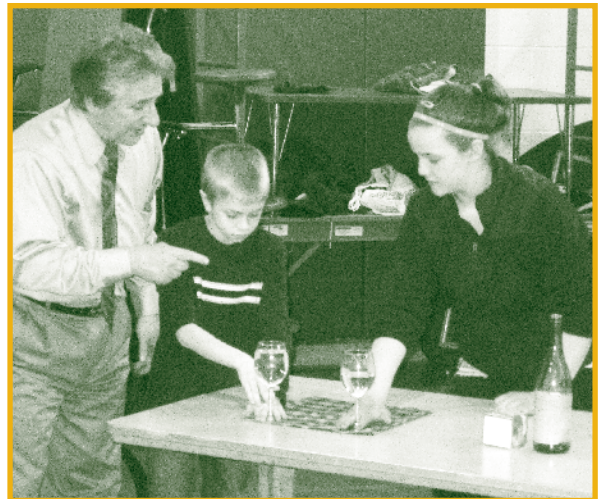
The proposed budget, which calls for a year-to-year spending increase of 4.4 percent, would increase the local tax levy by \$159,784, or 2.42 percent—the same as Mayfield's calculated tax levy limit plus exemptions under the new tax levy "cap" law. Because the proposed budget calls for a levy increase that is at Mayfield's "cap," the proposed 2012-13 budget will require approval by a simple majority of voters to pass (50 percent plus 1).

### Devastating cuts avoided

Early in the budget development process, district leaders feared that decisions made at the state level would force Mayfield to cut nearly all of its non-mandated programs for the 2012-13 school year. Under Gov. Cuomo's proposed state budget, Mayfield would have received only \$50,402 more in state aid than it did in 2011-12. The district was also limited by the tax levy cap: Mayfield could only raise an additional \$159,784 through local property taxes without triggering the need for approval by a supermajority of voters on May 15.

These restrictions, combined with rising costs, left Mayfield with a projected \$2.3 million gap between projected revenues and expenditures. From the beginning, Superintendent Paul

G. Williamsen recommended that the district use \$1 million in fund balance and \$350,000 from its debt service account to help fill that gap,



*In March, all Mayfield students benefited from a \$10,000 grant that financed educational concerts and interdisciplinary arts-based workshops.*

leaving Mayfield with a \$950,000 shortfall—which would have meant cutting \$950,000 worth of programs, or nearly all of the district's non-mandated programs. District leaders feared they would have to revert to half-day kindergarten; cut French as a foreign language offering; reduce art, music, Advanced Placement and business classes; and eliminate extracurricular and interscholastic athletic programs.

Fortunately, additional revenue became available from the state. The state budget passed by the Legislature included an additional \$130,950 in operating aid for Mayfield, and the district was also helped by a \$100,000 "bullet grant" from Sen. Hugh Farley.

Mayfield will see about \$340,000 worth of savings in 2012-13 after six employees retire. Two of the retiring employees—a teacher aide and a

## BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

**Polls are open noon to 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium lobby.**

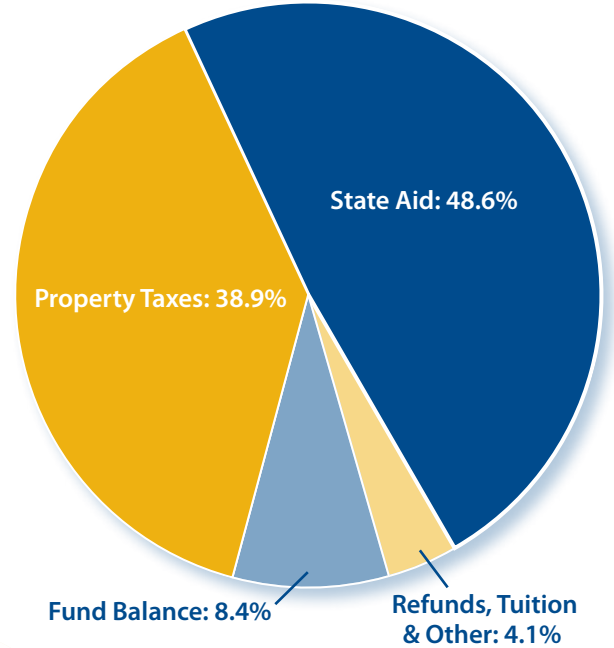
## PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 • 7 p.m.  
High School Upper Library

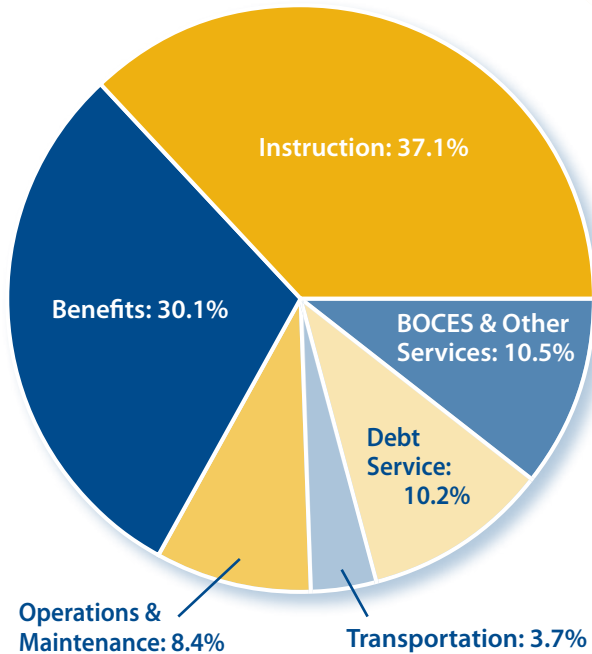
## Where the money comes from...

REVENUES	ACTUAL 2011-12	PROPOSED 2012-13	\$ CHANGE '11-12 to '12-13	% CHANGE '11-12 to '12-13
State & Federal Aid	\$8,286,145	\$8,459,753	\$173,608	2.10%
Property Taxes	\$6,605,589	\$6,765,373	\$159,784	2.42%
Refunds, Tuition & Other	\$1,164,501	\$713,000	-\$451,501	-38.77%
Fund Balance	\$600,000	\$1,452,336	\$852,336	142.06%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$16,656,235</b>	<b>\$17,390,462</b>	<b>\$734,227</b>	<b>4.40%</b>

## Projected Revenues



## Projected Expenditures



## ...and where it is spent

EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL 2011-12	PROPOSED 2012-13	\$ CHANGE '11-12 to '12-13	% CHANGE '11-12 to '12-13
Instruction	\$6,063,876	\$6,448,703	\$384,827	6.35%
Employee Benefits	\$5,112,751	\$5,233,929	\$121,178	2.37%
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,591,002	\$1,469,296	-\$121,706	-7.65%
Pupil Transportation	\$689,758	\$643,685	-\$46,073	-6.68%
Debt Service	\$1,833,907	\$1,767,960	-\$65,947	-3.60%
BOCES & Other Services	\$1,364,941	\$1,826,889	\$461,948	33.84%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$16,656,235</b>	<b>\$17,390,462</b>	<b>\$734,227</b>	<b>4.40%</b>

## Qq Aa How would the proposed budget affect my taxes?

Actual tax rates are set in August and are based on final assessment figures as provided by towns and equalization rates for each town as provided by the State Office of Real Property Tax Services. However, the school district has estimated the true value tax rate for towns within the district. The true value tax rate is the estimated tax rate that a property owner with full value assessment and an equalization rate of 1.0 would pay per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The tax rates and increases for next year that are shown in the chart are estimates only. The estimated tax rates and increases DO NOT reflect any STAR or other tax exemptions that may reduce individual school tax bills. For more tax information, including information about the STAR program, visit [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com).

### Estimated Tax Rates

per \$1,000 of assessed value

	2011-12 FINAL	2012-13 ESTIMATED	DOLLAR INCREASE	PERCENT INCREASE
Mayfield	\$21.27	\$21.65	\$0.38	1.79%
Northampton	\$22.88	\$23.91	\$1.03	4.50%
Johnstown	\$19.11	\$20.28	\$1.17	6.12%
Broadalbin	\$16.78	\$17.80	\$1.02	6.08%

## New revenues preserve programs

continued from page 1

member of the buildings and grounds staff—will not be replaced. The district will fill the positions of the other five retirees, which include two teachers and three teacher aides.

Mayfield will see an additional \$25,000 in savings in 2012-13 from an agreement by district administrators to switch to the PPO-B health insurance plan.

The district will close its projected budget gap by allocating an additional \$350,000 from its debt service account as revenue. The district originally planned to use those funds for the 2013-14 budget, but district leaders are in the process of exploring cost-saving measures that would allow them to replenish that account.

“I don’t want anyone to think that we were able to just snap our fingers and solve our budget problems,” Williamsen said. “The scenario presented to the community

in March, in which nearly all of our non-mandated programs were on the chopping block, was very real. We are grateful to our state Legislature for the additional state aid to Mayfield, as well as to Sen. Farley for securing the bullet grant for Mayfield schools. If these things hadn’t happened, this would be a very different—and much more difficult—story.”

Williamsen went on to emphasize that the district’s challenges are far from over.

“We are going to continue to face the possibility of devastating program cuts year after year because the way New York State funds its schools is unsustainable. Our elected officials need to make fundamental changes to this system so that Mayfield and other schools can stop worrying about how they will survive and focus on their real mission: Educating children.”

### Qq Why isn’t the tax levy increase capped at 2 percent?

Although the new law has been referred to as a “2 percent tax cap” by some politicians and the media, it does not restrict any proposed tax levy increase to 2 percent—or any other amount. In fact, 2 percent (or the rate of inflation, if less) is just one of eight variables prescribed by law that factor into each district’s calculation of its individual tax levy limit.

That tax levy limit, plus exclusions defined in the law, determines what level of voter support is needed for budget passage. Mayfield’s proposed 2012-13 budget calls for a tax levy increase of 2.42 percent, which is below Mayfield’s calculated cap. Therefore, the budget requires the approval of a simple majority of voters to pass.

### Qq What would happen if the proposed budget were defeated by voters?

If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the Board of Education would have three options: Present the same budget to voters a second time, present a revised budget to voters or adopt a contingent budget.

If the budget is defeated by voters a second time, the board must adopt a contingent budget. Under the new property tax cap law, a school district that adopts a contingent budget cannot increase its tax levy. To meet this requirement, Mayfield would have to cut \$159,784—the proposed tax levy increase—from the proposed budget.

“If we have to go to a contingent budget, we would eliminate all field trips,” Superintendent Paul G. Williamsen said. “We would also cut all non-essential materials and supplies.”

### Qq What is the return on taxpayers’ investment in Mayfield schools?

Even though Mayfield has one of the lowest per pupil spending rates in the Capital Region, the district is committed to providing a high-quality education. Here are some of the ways Mayfield is meeting that goal:

#### Academic Achievements

- Mayfield has one of the top graduation rates in the HFM BOCES region. In 2011, Mayfield’s graduation rate was 84 percent; the state average was 77 percent.
- Sixth-graders Thomas Armstrong and Brenna VanNostrand will travel to Great Britain over the summer as part of the People to People Student Ambassador program.

#### Art & Music Achievements

- The drama club presented “Big: The Musical” this spring. Approximately 40 students in grades 6-12 were involved in the production.
- Advanced art students from Mayfield High School are painting two large murals for the Fulton County Museum that will become part of its permanent collection.

#### Athletic Achievements

- Mayfield’s girls bowling team won the Western Athletic Conference title for the second year in a row.

#### Community Service

- Senior John Donnan was selected as one of News Channel 13’s (WNYT) “13 Kids Who Care” in recognition of his ongoing community service in flood-ravaged Schoharie County. News Channel 13 made a \$500 donation in John’s honor to a charity of his choice.
- Mayfield Elementary students raised \$11,000 for the American Heart Association during their Jump Rope for Heart event.

For answers to more of your questions, visit the Budget and Finance page on the district website, [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com).

## Board of Education

Janis Frisch, President  
Ernest Clapper, Vice President  
Teresa Davis  
Tush Nikollaj  
Robert Suits

Superintendent Paul Williamsen

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Michele Kelley, Editor



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## Also on the ballot...

### One Board of Education seat

Voters will elect one Board of Education member to a five-year term. The seat is currently held by Janis Frisch, who is not seeking re-election. Candidates for the seat are Joan Scannell and Kevin Capobianco. Information about each of the candidates is available on the district website, [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com).

### Bus purchase

Residents will vote on a proposition that would allow Mayfield to purchase one 66-passenger bus using funds from its bus purchase reserve account. If approved, the bus purchase would have no effect on the school tax levy.

### Wall of Dedication

Nomination forms for Mayfield's Wall of Dedication can be picked up in the District Office or downloaded from [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com) throughout the month of May. This is your chance to honor a Mayfield resident or alumnus who has made a significant contribution to our schools. The Wall of Dedication is located in the lobby of the high school auditorium.

### Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the May 15 election, be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and registered to vote with the school district.

### How do I register to vote?

Residents who are not already on the school register may register to vote 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m., April 30-May 4 and May 7-11, at the District Office. Residents may also register to vote on May 15 in the lobby of the high school gymnasium.

### When and where is the vote?

The school budget vote will take place from noon to 8 p.m., on Tuesday, May 15 in the lobby of the high school gymnasium.

### Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Residents who will not be in the area on May 15 or otherwise unable to vote in person may apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office.

If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 14.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 15.

### What exactly am I voting on?

Residents are voting on a proposed \$17,390,462 budget for the 2012-13 school year, which calls for a 4.4 percent increase in spending from the 2011-12 school year.

Residents are also voting to fill one seat on the Mayfield Board of Education, as well as on a proposition to purchase a school bus. The district would use reserve funds to pay for the new school bus.

Detailed copies of the proposed budget will be available at the District Office on or after May 1. Additional information about the budget is available on the Budget and Finance page of the district's website, [www.mayfieldk12.com](http://www.mayfieldk12.com).