

## School budget vote set for Tuesday, May 17: Residents to vote on \$4.8 million budget proposal

On Tuesday, May 17, Green Island residents will go to the polls to vote on a \$4,890,977 spending plan for the 2005-06 school year. The budget continues to provide a strong educational program for all students in a difficult economic climate.

Spending in the proposed budget is up by approximately \$435,000 over the current year, an increase of 9.78%. This translates into an estimated 6.91% tax rate increase - from \$290.56 per thousand of assessed value to \$310.64 per thousand.

The polls will be open from 2 pm to 8 pm in the Heatly School cafeteria. Voters will also elect two members to the Board of Education.

### What's driving the budget increase?

Like most things in life, the cost of educating our children continues to

go up each year. The district administration and Board of Education have been working since January to put together a budget that meets the educational needs of students while being fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

Several factors are driving up the cost of education here and in most school districts across the state. Employee health insurance continues to escalate at double-digit rates from one year to the next and the state is requiring higher contributions to the employee and teacher retirement systems to make up for smaller profits in the stock market where that money is invested. Energy and fuel costs have sky-rocketed over the past few years as well.

Although health insurance costs have been increasing, by working closely with the Green Island Teachers Association (GITA), the district was able to

offset some of these costs and save \$150,000 this year. GITA members agreed to pay higher co-pays to help the district save money.

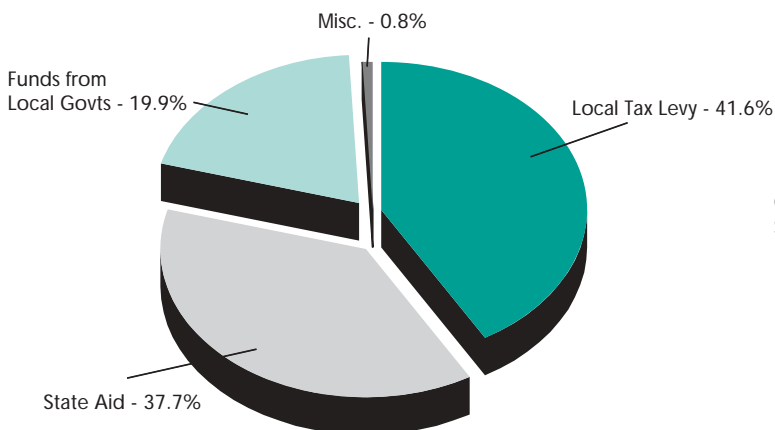
### Renovation and addition project impact - Year 1

The largest portion of this year's spending increase, approximately 60%, is due to the first year impact of a three-year tax step-in of the costs to fund the renovation and addition project. \$12.24 of this year's \$20.08 increase is due to this Year 1 impact.

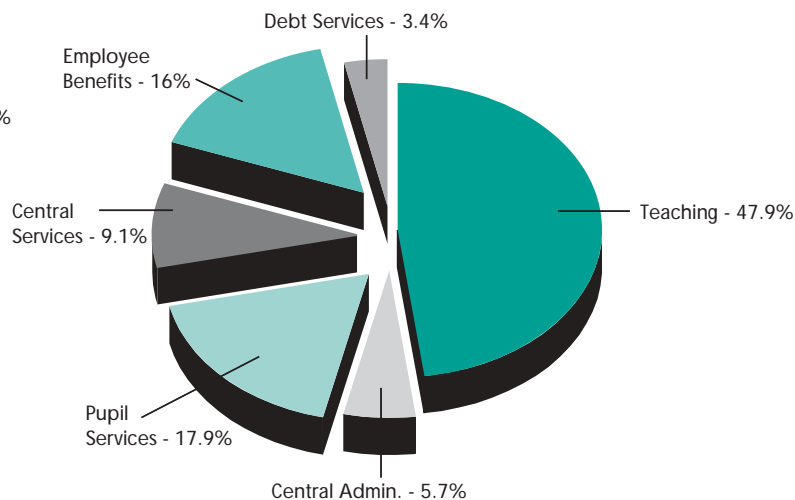
"The issue of how we would fund the renovation and addition project was discussed at length during the many public hearings we had prior to the bond vote," said Superintendent Herb Perkins. "We decided on the three-year step-in after receiving a lot of feedback from the public at these meetings, and I

— continued on page 2

### Projected Revenues



### Projected Expenditures



## ... Budget — *continued from page 1*

am pleased that the vast majority of our community was able to support it.”

The rest of the spending plan represents a basic rollover budget. No new programs have been added, nor have any been eliminated. Students will continue to receive the same quality Healy education they have come to expect.

“We have worked very hard to maintain our current quality educational program and absorb the impact of the renovation and addition project, without putting too much burden on our taxpayers,” concluded Perkins.

## Awards Night Grades 7-12

**May 18, 2005 - 7:00 pm**

The Awards Committee has been hard at work planning this year's award ceremony on Wednesday, May 18. To help honor our hard-working students, there will be many more awards given at this year's awards ceremony.

In addition to the usual annual awards to the student in each class with the highest average, teachers will also give an award to each student who achieves a 90 or better average for the first three quarters. Teachers will also give a most improved award in each subject, for the one student who has shown the most improvement in: academics, behavior, attendance, homework OR participation, etc. Teachers will also give awards to students they feel have put forth extra effort or been a special help.

Letters have gone out to over 300 students and parents, inviting them to attend the Awards Night ceremony. We hope that every student and parent will attend and that as many family members as possible will join them. It should be a very exciting night. A reception will follow the ceremony in the High School Library.

## Estimated Revenues

Revenue	Proposed 2005-06 budget	Final 2004-05 budget	Change in dollar amount
Planned Balance	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Transfer from fund balance	\$0	\$95,850	(-\$95,850)
Payments in lieu of taxes	\$644,541	\$596,440	\$48,101
Tax penalties/ interest	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$532	\$532	\$0
Charges for services/tuition	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Investment interest	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
Admissions	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
After School Program	\$0	\$30,000	(-\$30,000)
State Aid	\$1,845,269	\$1,486,717	\$358,552
G.I. Power Authority	\$326,894	\$326,894	\$0
Local tax levy	\$2,036,741	\$1,881,913	\$154,828
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,890,977</b>	<b>\$4,455,346</b>	<b>\$435,631</b>

## Estimated Expenditures

Revenue	Proposed 2005-06 budget	Final 2004-05 budget	% change
Board of Education	\$13,688	\$16,293	(-15.99%)
Central Administration	\$71,855	\$67,341	6.70%
Finance	\$141,302	\$131,998	7.05%
Staff	\$51,680	\$44,295	16.67%
Central Services	\$301,407	\$248,000	21.54%
Special Items	\$143,465	\$129,550	10.74%
Instruct., Admin. & Improv.	\$92,218	\$92,170	0.05%
Teaching - Regular School	\$1,643,397	\$1,487,845	10.45%
Special Education programs	\$646,006	\$635,680	1.62%
Teaching - Special Schools	\$42,811	\$47,800	(-10.44%)
Employment Preparation program	\$15,500	\$5,000	(-67.74%)
Instructional Media	\$141,781	\$176,703	(-19.76%)
Pupil Services	\$310,654	\$319,660	(-2.82%)
Pupil Transportation	\$324,515	\$258,160	25.70%
Youth Program	\$5,700	\$2,600	119.23%
Debt Service	\$39,193	\$42,870	(-8.58%)
Employee Benefits	\$785,865	\$708,441	10.93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,890,977</b>	<b>\$4,455,346</b>	<b>9.78%</b>



### Canestrari helps students unveil new curtains

*Thanks to Assemblyman Canestrari who secured \$5,000 in local funding through the State Education Department as part of the 2004-05 state budget to help pay for the new curtains. Elementary Student Council representatives also organized fundraising efforts to pay for the remaining cost of the new curtains.*

## Standardized test scores, an overview

Scores on other NYS assessments are holding relatively steady. Students scoring in levels three and four meet or exceed the state's academic requirements. Those scoring in levels one or two require more help to meet the standards.

### ELA 4

80 percent of Heatly students scored at levels three and four on the ELA test taken in February of 2004. This is much higher than the statewide average for similar schools, which is 67 percent. No students scored at level one.

### Math 4

Fourth graders also fared well on the math test, with 88 percent of students scoring at levels three and four. Heatly again bested the statewide average for similar schools, which is 83 percent. Again, no students scored at level one.

### ELA 8

Eighth grade scores on the ELA were comparable to those from the previous school year. There was a slight decline in the overall number of students scoring in levels three and four, however, the percentage of students scoring at the highest level increased by 6%. No students scored at level one.

### Math 8

Scores on the eighth grade math test went up notably this year, with 47 percent of students scoring at levels three and four, up from only 24 percent last year.

## Heatly makes strides in math and science!

Heatly's performance on the 2003-04 New York State-mandated assessments offer a few good reasons for Green Island to celebrate. At the top of the list are the scores on the 4th grade science test. 92% of students scored at levels 3 and 4, which means they are meeting or exceeding the state standards in science. Scores also went up notably on the Math 8 test.

"I am very pleased to see how well our students have done on these tests since we have been working hard in these areas," said Superintendent Herb Perkins. "I think our move to departmentalization at the third through sixth grade levels has really made a difference on the science test, and our efforts to strengthen the secondary math department have also paid off."

### What is departmentalization?

Heatly made the move to departmentalize the grades 3-6 in 2001-02. Under the new system, each teacher has a home room for the first one and a half hours of the day. This time is used to teach reading and handle other assorted classroom activities. After that period is up, the students then move from classroom to classroom to focus on math, ELA, science and social studies. Each teacher has a specialty and spends the rest of his or her day focusing on that specialty.

There are many benefits to this approach. Students will have the same teachers for four years, providing continuity and allowing for better student achievement as teachers learn how to adjust to student's specific strengths and weaknesses and provide differentiated instruction. Differentiation also ensures that each content areas gets its due. The state has been so focused on math and ELA due to testing it can be easy to put less emphasis on science and social studies.

Teaching to the NYS standards has become more materials driven, and departmentalization now allows all equipment to be stored in one classroom. A good example of this is the hands-on Science Kits program through Capital Region BOCES. Through the program, science teacher Kathy Kirch orders the kit that corresponds with an upcoming unit for each grade. A large container arrives containing all of the materials needed to complete that unit.

### Secondary math teachers shine

Heatly has been working hard for the last few years to strengthen the secondary math department, including facing the difficult task of replacing a veteran teacher who retired last year. The result is two newer teachers, Mrs. Eberle and Mr. Matoon, whose efforts seem to be paying off. Both teachers have attended extensive standards-based training at Siena College. They have also spent many hours in curriculum development and aligning this new curriculum not only with the state standards, but also with what Heatly's elementary students are learning.

"This helps ensure continuity throughout a child's education and provides a check that we're teaching everything we should," said Perkins. "These teachers have done a great job."



### Science scores on the rise!

*Students in Mrs. Kirch's science class work with the BOCES science kit for their geology unit.*

# School district budget notice

	Budget adopted for the 2004-05 school year	Budget proposed for the 2005-06 school year	Contingency budget for 2005-06 school year
Total budgeted amount	\$4,455,346	\$4,890,977	\$4,597,755
Increase/decrease for 2005 year		\$435,631	\$142,409
Percent increase/decrease		9.78%	3.2%
Change in the consumer price index		2.7%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for 2005 school year		\$2,036,741	\$1,805,474
Administrative component	\$448,972	\$466,280	\$436,786
Program component	\$3,505,701	\$3,774,938	\$3,549,468
Capital component	\$500,673	\$649,759	\$611,501

In accordance with Education Law, Section 2023, a 3.24% budget increase is allowed in a contingency budget adjusted for changes in debt service and increased costs due to increased enrollment. Contingency budget component data and STAR data are forecasted values and are not meant to represent the exact contingency budget and STAR amounts which would be enacted.

## Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR exemption savings based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of \$100,000. This chart, mandated by New York State, is illustrative of the possible savings for a homeowner eligible for the Basic STAR exemption. All STAR savings and tax increases are subject to change, pending final equalization rates, assessments, etc.

	Budget adopted for the 2004-05 school year	Budget proposed for the 2005-06 school year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$746.74	\$798.34
School tax increase/decrease	\$0	\$163.25
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$746.74	\$635.09

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2005-06 by the qualified voters of the Green Island Union Free School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at Heatly School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2005, between the hours of 2 pm and 8 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

**Superintendent**  
**Herb Perkins**  
**(518) 273-1422**  
**Board of Education**  
**Norman Stebbins**  
**President**  
**Anita Brown**  
**Vice-President**  
**Beth Heffern**  
**Tom McNulty**  
**Robert Boudreau**

---

Published by the Green Island Union Free School District in conjunction with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.  
 Editor: Jill Aurora

---

*School board meetings are open to the public and most are held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Heatly School.*

Web Site: [www.greenisland.org](http://www.greenisland.org)

**Green Island Union Free School District**  
**171 Hudson Avenue**  
**Green Island, New York 12183**

**Non Profit Org.**  
**Postage PAID**  
**Permit #867**  
**Troy, NY 12180**