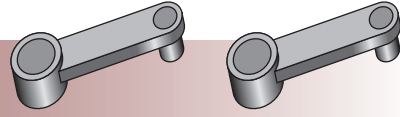




An eye on the **BOTTOM LINE!**



Fort Plain taxpayers are being asked to vote on a proposed \$15,084,000 budget for 2005-06 that reflects a 3.03 percent increase in spending, as compared to the 2004-05 budget.

The total tax levy would increase 4.48 percent, with local taxpayers seeing a projected average increase of \$1.45 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The tax impact figures are estimates because final tax bills will not be established until August when equalization rates and assessed values are set and all tax certioraris are filed.

Escalating costs

At the same time that state aid revenues are projected to decrease, Fort Plain is looking at higher costs for:

- Employee health and retirement benefits.
- Energy, with prices projected to rise for gasoline, electricity and diesel fuel.

What happens if a majority of voters don't approve the budget?

If a majority of Fort Plain residents vote "no" on the budget on May 17, the school district can either schedule another vote or adopt a contingency budget. If the budget is defeated a second time, the board would have to adopt a contingency budget. Because the district's proposed budget essentially meets the guidelines of a contingency budget, there would be few changes under contingency, and the tax impact for residents will be essentially the same.

Residents to elect three to Board of Education

Voters will be asked to elect three people from a list of seven candidates to fill seats on the Fort Plain Central School District Board of Education. Candidates include:

- David Fredericks, incumbent
- James A. Petty, incumbent
- Robin C. Cutspec
- Christine Dettmer
- Debra Gross
- William Klock
- Robert Koch

Voters to decide on bus proposition

In a separate proposition, voters will decide whether to authorize the Board of Education to use no more than \$378,000 from the existing Capital Fund Bus Purchase Reserve to buy school vehicles.

This proposition would enable the district to continue a program that voters approved in 2003 to replace buses on a five-year rotation. Replacing buses every five years assures:

- A guaranteed minimum trade-in of \$20,000 per bus.
- A safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation fleet at no cost to the taxpayer.

Under current aid formulas, New York State reimburses the

Fort Plain School District in the following year for 79 percent of the cost of each bus. As a result, the district pays only \$19,000 for a \$90,000 school bus. At trade-in, the district receives \$20,000 – \$1,000 more than it originally spent on the bus. The net cost is less than the purchase price.

This is the last year that the state will reimburse the district for the full share in the following year. In future years, the state will continue to reimburse the district, but will extend the payments over a five-year period. This is the last opportunity the district will have to purchase buses without having to finance the purchases in anticipation of the state's annual reimbursement.

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LOCAL BOXHOLDER

**BUDGET HEARING:
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5**

7:30 p.m. in the

Harry Hoag School,

Ronald H. Thibodeau

Conference Room



**REMEMBER TO VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 17th**

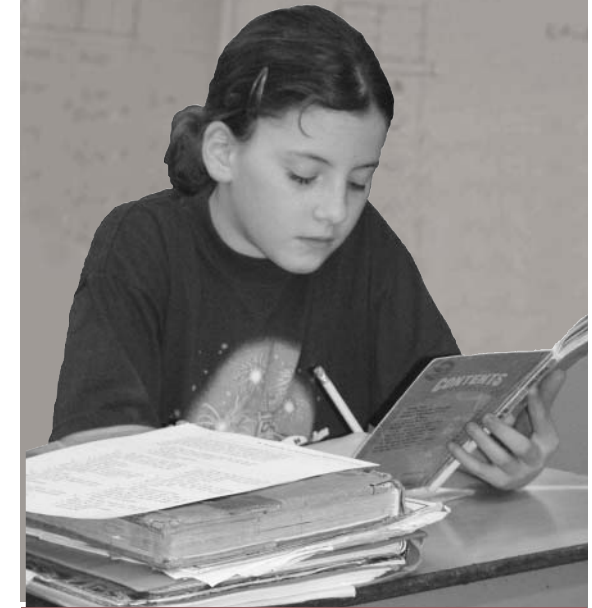
Polls open 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Harry Hoag School gymnasium



Fort Plain
Central
School
District

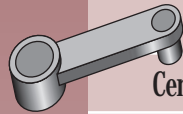
Fort Plain Budget Vote



Tuesday, May 17

Fort Plain Budget Vote

on Tuesday, May 17th



Residents of the Fort Plain

Central School District will go to the

polls on Tuesday, May 17 to vote on

next year's proposed school budget.

Voters will also elect three candidates

to serve on the board of education.

Polls will be open from 1-9 p.m. in the

Harry Hoag School gymnasium.

By law, voters must be U.S. citizens, age

18 or older, and residents of the district

for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Advance registration is NOT required.

Please take the time to learn about

the proposed school district budget

during a public hearing set for

7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, in the

Ronald H. Thibodeau Conference

Room at Harry Hoag School.



The Proposed 2005-06 School Budget at a Glance ...

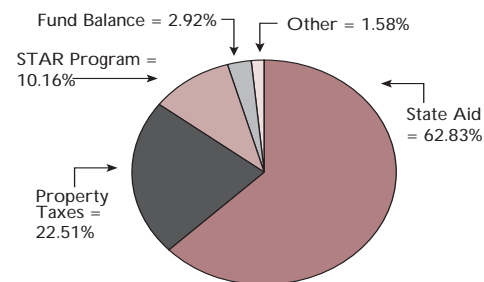
EXPENDITURES

	2004-05 Budget	2005-06 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
General Support	\$1,487,080	\$1,572,632	5.75%
Instruction	8,074,702	8,110,477	0.44%
Pupil Transportation	741,823	767,218	3.42%
Employee Benefits	3,017,755	3,290,588	9.04%
Debt Service & Related Transfers	1,318,985	1,343,085	1.83%
TOTAL	\$14,640,345	\$15,084,000	3.03%

REVENUES

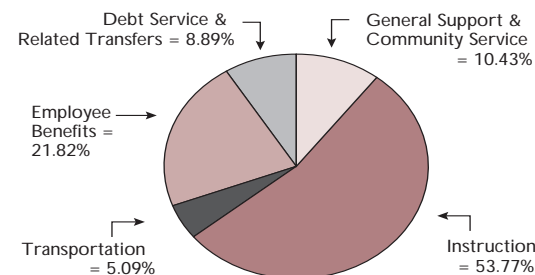
	2004-05 Budget	2005-06 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
State Aid	\$9,142,050	\$9,477,552	3.67%
Property Taxes	3,249,478	3,394,949	4.48%
STAR Program	1,467,167	1,532,849	4.48%
Fund Balance	543,000	440,000	-18.97%
Other	238,650	238,650	0.00%
TOTAL	\$14,640,345	\$15,084,000	3.03%

2005-06 Revenue Summary



A portion of the property tax levy will be paid by the state under the School Tax Relief (STAR) program. Every primary residence taxpayer throughout the state – regardless of age or income – will receive a reduction in their school taxes provided they've applied for the exemption. For more information, contact your town assessor's office. 🍏

2005-06 Expense Summary



Education is a people-intensive business and this is reflected in the budget. More than 70 percent of Fort Plain's annual budget is spent on salaries and benefits and this will continue to be the case as standards and expectations rise. A quality school system, quite simply, depends on a quality staff. 🍏

Proposed BUDGET PROVIDES

staffing & resources to:



Maintain current staffing levels.

The proposed budget preserves the existing teacher to student ratio ensuring each student a sound, basic education.



Maintain an exemplary second-language program.

Fort Plain's Spanish language program enables students to meet and exceed the state's foreign language proficiency levels, making it among the most effective foreign language programs in the state.



Maintain existing extracurricular programs.

Interscholastic athletics, music and other extracurricular activities remain intact.

To meet budgetary objectives, the Board of Education:



Eliminated all paid assistant-coaching positions.



Eliminated a teaching assistant position in the elementary computer lab.



Reduced a full time teacher's aide/bus aide to a part time bus aide position.

The district seeks outside resources to enhance programs and services. Grant funds provided:

- 🍏 \$ 425,155 for remedial education staff and benefits
- 🍏 \$212,973 for IDEA Grant (special education staff and benefits)
- 🍏 \$75,856 for class-size reduction & professional development
- 🍏 \$44,922 for records management
- 🍏 \$10,991 for Safe and Drug-Free Schools
- 🍏 \$10,300 for computer technology equipment and training
- 🍏 \$9,291 for IDEA Grant (preschool)
- 🍏 \$17,503 for Innovative Programs grant
- 🍏 \$ 3,285 for CPSE grant (special education preschool)
- 🍏 \$ 50,000 for special Legislative grant