

SCHOOL BUDGET 2012-2013 NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS BUDGET VOTE – TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012 POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 12:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

On **Tuesday, April 17, 2012**, the Sayreville Board of Education's 2012-2013 school budget will be presented for a public vote. The budget calls for a tax increase of **\$60.63** for a home with an *assessed value* of **\$143,700** or an estimated average *market value* of **\$315,000**. This *Question and Answer Newsletter* has been prepared to let parents know what is in that budget, so that you will understand how the budget vote may impact your child.

QUESTION: What does my child get for the \$60.63 increase to my yearly tax bill?

ANSWER: The following existing and new items have contributed to the tax increase:

- Full-Day rather than Half-Day Kindergarten.
- The continuation of courtesy busing for all elementary students.
 Grade 6-12 students who lost courtesy busing now pay \$460 a year per child for private bus transportation.
- Seven new teachers to help reduce class size.
- Technology upgrades to the infrastructure including creating wireless access for all schools.
- Consumable workbooks and supplies that support the curricula, especially the elementary reading program.
- Replacement of Eisenhower roof.
- New Middle School track program.
- New textbooks for grades 6-8 Science, grade 7 History and Pre-Calculus courses
- Online/Distance Learning for the High School.

QUESTION: What proof do I have that my school tax dollars are wisely spent?

ANSWER: Each year the NJ Department of Education requires schools to meet benchmarks called Adequate Yearly Progress. AYP is determined by 40 indicators of student achievement for each individual school. Sayreville met 270 of the 280 indicators for our 7 schools or a proficiency rate of 96.4%. This was accomplished at a cost of \$3,043 *less* per pupil than the state average.

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