



## Franklin Township Board of Education *Budget Newsletter*

Dear Members of the Franklin Township Community:

On Tuesday, April 21, 2009, the residents of Franklin Township will have the opportunity to vote on the Board of Education's proposed annual school budget for the 2009-2010 school year and to elect 3 members to the Board of Education.

Due to the serious conditions of our state's economy, this year the development of the budget has been a special challenge. Our goal is to maintain the school district's educational programs and services without increasing the financial burden on our taxpayers.

The Franklin Township Board of Education has adopted its tentative 2009/2010 school budget and will be holding its public budget hearing on **Wednesday, April 1, 2009** at **7:30 p.m.** in the **All -Purpose Room** of Franklin Township School.

PLEASE NOTE: This year the Annual School Election will be held at the **Quakertown Fire House** on Route 579 with the expanded voting hours of **7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.** to provide voters a greater flexibility in exercising their voting rights.

If you have any questions about the proposed budget, please feel free to contact James Dwyer, Interim Superintendent/Principal at 908-735-7929, Ext. 201 for more information.

***The proposed budget DOES NOT include any funds for additional staff or programs, but does reflect a consolidation of some current positions.***

### ***2009-2010 Proposed School Budget Highlights Benefits to Students***



- ◆ Maintain current class sizes in all grades.
- ◆ Fund the purchase of needed instructional materials such as textbooks, workbooks, and supplies for instruction.
- ◆ Maintain programs; no elimination of school day programs.
- ◆ Maintain sports and extracurricular activities.
- ◆ Provide for an environment that is clean, well-maintained and conducive to learning.

### ***2009-2010 Proposed School Budget Highlights Benefits to the Community***

- ◆ Provides for the use of the school building and grounds to community groups such as:
  - PTA
  - Franklin Township Recreation programs
  - Franklin Township School Booster Club
  - Girl Scouts
  - Boy Scouts
  - Rural Awareness
  - Franklin Theatre Works
  - Quakertown Fire Company
  - Other community based organizations.



The Board of Education believes this budget to be both fiscally responsible and one which will promote a high level of educational achievement for our children.

Please vote in the election on April 21st to permit us to continue our *commitment to excellence* for all the children of Franklin Township.

**The Proposed 2009-2010 Budget at a Glance**

The annual school budget is a plan which we develop to identify funds available from various sources and indicate how those funds will be spent. The expenditures equal the revenues.

<u>Expenditures</u>		
	Budgeted <b>08-09</b>	Proposed <b>09-10</b>
Instruction (Regular and Special Education)	\$2,891,773	\$2,913,570
Administration	491,421	475,882
Employee Benefits (Health, dental, social security, teacher education)	735,533	807,383
Operation & Maintenance of Facilities	607,300	544,343
Transportation (Regular and Special Education)	426,428	460,534
Tuition (Special Education-Out of District)	327,367	335,183
Health and Attendance	<u>54,596</u>	<u>77,865</u>
Total General Fund	\$5,534,418	\$5,614,760
Special Revenues (State/Fed.)	130,000	94,658
Debt Service	<u>558,679</u>	<u>654,929</u>
Total Budget	\$6,223,097	\$6,364,347
<u>Revenues</u>		
	Current <b>08-09</b>	Anticipated <b>09-10</b>
State Aid	\$ 381,578	\$ 366,889
Budgeted Fund Balance	166,595	263,626
Miscellaneous	52,000	50,000
General Fund Local Tax Levy	<u>4,934,245</u>	<u>4,934,245</u>
Total General Fund	\$5,534,418	\$5,614,760
State/Federal Grant	130,000	94,658
Debt Service Local Tax Levy	186,466	529,929
Transfers Other Funds	<u>372,213</u>	<u>125,000</u>
Total Budget	\$6,223,097	\$6,364,347

**Cost and Spending Facts:**

- ◆ The proposed budget is under the State mandated CAP for the allowable budget for Franklin Township School.
- ◆ The surplus is at the 2% level of the budget as mandated by the State. This is the only reserve for emergency repairs to the facilities or unexpected education costs.
- ◆ Cost savings are reflected in the area of cooperative purchasing for supplies, energy, telephone, insurance, fuel oil, transportation.
- ◆ The total increase in the General Fund is 1.4%.
- ◆ We have applied \$125,000 in interest earnings to reduce the debt service tax levy, and \$263,626 to reduce general fund taxes for a total return and reduction to our taxpayers of \$388,626.
- ◆ The local taxes needed to support our school have not increased from 2008-09.

## **Candidates for the Board of Education:**

Three-Year Terms (select 3)

Samuel Philip Duckworth

Mark P. Poltricitisky

James Campbell

Lawrence Wright

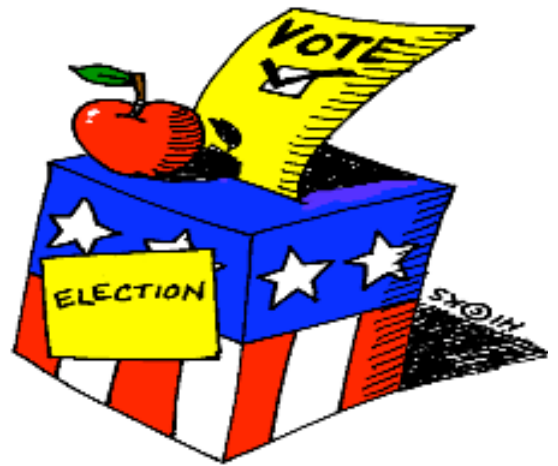
James J. Foran

Christopher Piparo

Terry Schultz

C. Susan Larson

Annual School Election  
April 21, 2009  
7:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.  
Quakertown Fire House



### **Want to VOTE but can't get to the polls?**

Come to Franklin Township School to pick up an application for an absentee ballot or download an application at **[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us)**. If you mail your application, it must be received by the County Clerk no later than 7 days prior to the election. You may also apply in person at the County Clerk's Office by 3:00 p.m. the day prior to the election. Your absentee ballot must be received by the County Board of Elections before the close of polls on Election Day.

Dear Residents of Franklin Township,

Drafting a budget in ordinary times is always a serious task, but in uncertain economic times it is indeed much more of a challenge. The district administration and the Franklin Township Board of Education have tried to meet this challenge while maintaining the quality of education offered at our school.

With careful oversight of expenditures, we are proposing not only to provide but also to improve the educational programs that have demonstrated successful student achievement as noted in the New Jersey State Report Card and in individual assessment. We are committed to maintaining appropriate class size and to providing an environment that is both conducive to learning and well maintained. Some of the cost-saving measures that impact the budget include consolidating positions and increasing the use of cooperative purchasing and shared services. Also included in this budget is adequate funding for special education needs and government-mandated programs and for supplies for instruction and maintenance.

Overall, we are presenting to you, the voters, a general expenditure budget for 2009-2010 that maintains approximately the same dollar amount for general expenditures as in the previous 2008-2009 budget. We urge residents to vote on Tuesday, April 21 at the Quakertown Firehouse from 7:00am to 9:00pm.

As board members and community members, we share in the partnership with you, the community, to fulfill the mission of our school district. Our students are our future.

Sincerely,

Dolores J. Wright  
President, Franklin Township Board of Education

### Mission Statement

**The mission of the Franklin Township School, in partnership with the entire community, is to educate all students to the fullest extent of their individual capabilities, to foster the desire for excellence, to prepare them to succeed in future educational endeavors, in order to become responsible, respectful members in a democratic society.**