

2011-12 Budget Information

Pittsville School District Administrator - Terry Reynolds

On October 19, The School Board members approved the 2011-12 budget and tax levy. Our enrollment which is directly related to how much a school district may levy each year increased by 7 students. However the revenue limits are based on a three year average. Our enrollment count (three yr. avg.) this year was **630** (last year's three year average was **635**). So we are still seeing a decline in our enrollment for revenue limit purposes.

To cover the total costs to educate our students this year a 2011-12 budget (All funds) of **\$8,485,902.05** was developed. On a positive note, this amount equates to a decrease of **-8.87%** from last year's budget. The decrease is mainly due to the decrease in revenue from the following: loss of \$640,206 in Tax levy limit and equalization aid decreases, also an additional loss of \$220,334 in State and Federal aids. Last year's budget included one-time maintenance budget costs (elementary Roof and HVAC project), those funding dollars were eliminated in this year's budget.

The Board also approved the 2011-12 tax levy of **\$3,340,311**. The rate is a **-6.25%** decrease over last year's levy. The District mill rate for 2011-12 is **\$10.79** per \$1000 (last year - **\$11.17**). This amount would have been lower, had the State not decreased the amount of School Aids so drastically. When State aids go down, local tax impact increases.

Questions many will ask:

What is this year's new tax impact for the \$175,000 recurring referendum passed in November of 2008?

The answer to this question is **\$.00**. 2010-11 was the final year for any **new** additional tax dollars for the recurring referendum.

How many years do we have left to pay on our school building debt?

We have three years left to pay. This year's payment is **\$489,132**, which works out to roughly **\$1.58** per \$1,000 valuation in the tax levy rate. The School Board refinanced this debt in 2009, and received a substantial rate decrease, and saved a little over **\$27,000** each of the final five years, for a total of **\$135,000** savings over that time period. The District also pre-paid an additional \$145,000 in 2010-11 towards this debt, which will offset the final payment in 2014, which will decrease the levy in that year as well.

How was the District able to balance the budget with the great decrease in revenues coming into the District?

The District was able to eliminate from the budget the costs associated with the one-time facility projects which were budgeted for last year. The Elementary Roof and HVAC, Distance Learning Lab, and Greenhouse projects all were one-time costs and a part of the 2008 recurring referendum plan. There was also a \$308,717 cost savings from not replacing 3.6 retiring staff positions in the District. Due to declining enrollment the District was able to adjust current staff within to cover the current student programming needs.

Questions regarding this year's budget, please contact Terry Reynolds, District Administrator, School District of Pittsville at 715-884-6694.