

Marple Newtown School District

38 Media Line Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073



For Immediate Release

The Marple Newtown Board of School Directors intends to adopt its preliminary budget on May 26, 2009. The Preliminary Budget for 2009-2010 is available for public inspection in the Business Office of the Marple Newtown School District, 38 Media Line Road, Suite 204, Newtown Square, PA, all schools, the local libraries, municipal buildings, the post offices and District website. Said preliminary budget will be presented to the Board of School Directors for adoption at a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7:30 PM prevailing time, in the Board Room of the Gauntlett Center, 40 Media Line Road, Newtown Square, PA. The Board of Directors will also be taking action on the Final Budget at its public meeting scheduled for June 23, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Board Room of the Gauntlett Center.

2009-2010 Preliminary Budget

The current preliminary budget for the Marple Newtown School District details the anticipated spending plan for the district in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The total preliminary spending plan for 2009-2010 is \$60,362,000. This level of spending requires only a slight increase over the current 2008-2009 budget of \$60,165,000.

This year's budgeting process has been particularly challenging for the school district, due to the current economic downturn facing the nation. School Districts, as well as all governments, are not immune from the effects of an economic downturn. This economic downturn, and the taxing limitations mandated under Act 1, has made this year's budget process difficult.

In order to balance this year's budget, spending may be limited through program changes and budget reductions. In addition, the district is unable to budget for any increase in spending for new programs and expiring labor

agreements. Any new spending has to be offset with new revenues or a reduction in spending from another category.

The district has made every effort to maintain as much of the current educational program that is currently offered to the students of the Marple Newtown School District. Unfortunately, there are several areas and programs that are being discontinued, not offered, or reorganized to achieve a balanced budget for 2009-2010.

The District will continue to provide the quality education as has been the tradition and expectation of the Marple Newtown School District. However, in order to achieve the savings levels necessary, the following changes have been recommended, by the administration, for the 2009-2010 year:

- Foreign Language at the Elementary Schools will not be offered.
- Reduction of non-mandated standardized testing at the High School.
- District payment for AP exams will be discontinued.
- A reduction of support staff at the secondary level.
- Reorganization and reduction in the Facilities and Operations Department.
- Elimination of the Secretary to the Board position.
- Reduction in Supplemental Programs: Foreign Language Newspaper, The High School and Middle School Newspapers, Elementary Curriculum Coaches, Summer School Principal and District-wide Intramurals.
- Elimination of the Ice Hockey Club contribution.
- Reduction in Non-Academic Field Trip Transportation.

In addition, the administration has recommended several new fee-based revenues for consideration.

- Activity Fee – An Activity Fee will be charged for student participation in all Athletic and Non-Academic Activities.
- Parking Permit Fee – A student parking permit process will be implemented at the high school.