

# Middletown Township Public Schools Your Town, Your Schools

APRIL 2010

## A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Much of my work as an educator has been in the area of special education. A particular area of focus for me has been early literacy, throughout 36 years of teaching and administrative experience, during my graduate study and through independent research. The importance of learning to read and write well at an early age is well-documented in the research and is widely known to correlate with success throughout a student's whole school career. Reading and writing form the basis for learning in all other subject areas. Coming to Middletown almost nine years ago, I found that children who struggled with reading were frequently referred for special education services, which was a costly way to educate them and also required that they be excluded from the general education setting in order to get the help they needed. It became one of my goals as Superintendent, as well as a goal in our Strategic Plan, to insure that children learn to read and write well in the early grades as part of the developmental program, in the general education setting whenever possible, so students do not feel isolated or think that the problem lies with them. District administrators and outside experts worked to train teachers and support staff in the general program to utilize many different approaches and focused methodologies to insure that students learn to read and write well. As a result, our district has implemented the IDEAL and LEADS models of literacy instruction, as well as full day kindergarten, which are research-proven ways to insure that children learn to become competent readers and writers in the primary grades and can have greater success throughout their school careers. Furthermore, the district has been steadily decreasing cost by its ability to serve our struggling readers in the general education setting.

We can document the great progress the district has made, in the decrease in rate of referral to special education where reading was the primary problem, which has been substantially reduced by 94 referrals in just one year, and in the great increase in the number of students who are reaching advanced proficient levels in language arts literacy in our statewide testing program. Now our progress is threatened by the state's budget crisis, which has taken almost ten million dollars from us in reduction of state aid, impacting this coming budget cycle. The district has been forced to make drastic cuts in spending in all our major departments, such as curriculum and technology, and has been forced to reduce administrative, teaching, paraprofessional, custodial/maintenance and secretarial positions that will have a devastating impact on the progress we have made toward the realization of our district goals and vision.

Last week I visited one of our schools and entered a first grade classroom during the literacy instruction period. I observed the general classroom teacher working individually with a struggling reader while the rest of the class was busily engaged in group-work at their centers. The student was so proud he could read an entire book and then retell the story to his teacher, demonstrating his understanding. I thought about how far we have come as a district and the fact that students like this one do not have to be labeled or isolated in order to get the support that they need. I then realized that this teacher would not be with us next year, since she was going to be given a notice of non-renewal only a few days later. Along with 123 other district employees, there will be no positions available for these dedicated and caring staff members who have been so well-trained in our models of literacy instruction and in other critical areas, like inquiry-based mathematics, science and the integration of technology into the curriculum.

There has never been a time when the district and its children have needed the community's support more than this year for the proposed budget. A budget defeat will mean even more cuts to programs and services for our students, and increased job loss in our community.

Karen L. Bilbao  
Superintendent of Schools

# Introducing the 2010-2011 Proposed School Budget



The proposed budget carries a 3.9% total tax increase or 4.2¢

## Tax Impact for Middletown Homeowners

For A Home Assessed at:	Total Increase Per Year	Total Proposed School Tax	Total Increase Per Month	Total Percentage Increase
\$300,000	\$126	\$3,381	\$10.50	3.9%
\$400,000	\$168	\$4,508	\$14.00	3.9%
\$435,000*	\$183	\$4,902	\$15.23	3.9%
\$500,000	\$210	\$5,635	\$17.50	3.9%
\$600,000	\$252	\$6,762	\$21.00	3.9%



\* Per the Middletown Tax Assessor, the new average assessment is \$433,900, so we will use \$435,000 in providing an example.

## PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS

<u>Budget reductions:</u>	<u>Staff Positions (if applicable) *</u>	<u>Dollar Amount of Reduction</u>
1. <b>25% of discretionary and non-contractual budget lines, including school level budgets</b>		<b>\$1,750,000</b>
2. <b>Administrator positions</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>\$735,000</b>
3. <b>Teaching staff members</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>\$4,712,500</b>
4. <b>Paraprofessional positions</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>\$380,500</b>
5. <b>Facilities Department positions</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>\$337,000</b>
6. <b>Secretarial and clerical positions</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>\$683,000</b>
7. <b>Other personnel reductions (stipends, reduce substitute rates, overtime, etc.)</b>		<b>\$1,010,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>124.0</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,608,000</u></b>

\* All position reductions include benefit savings, where applicable

### Breakdown of staff reductions:

	<u>Staff Member Reductions</u>	<u>Total Staff</u>	<u>Staff Member Reduction Percentage</u>
<b>Administrators</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>14.6%</b>
<b>Teaching Staff members</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
<b>Paraprofessionals</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>Facilities Department</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
<b>Secretaries and Clerks</b>	<b><u>16.5</u></b>	<b><u>93</u></b>	<b><u>17.7%</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>124.0</u></b>	<b><u>1479.0</u></b>	<b><u>8.4%</u></b>

## 2010-2011 General Fund Revenues

	Current Budget 2009-2010	Proposed Budget 2010-2011	Dollar Difference	Percentage Difference
Local Property Taxes	\$119,793,275	\$123,878,213	\$4,084,938	3.4%
State Aid	21,162,445	14,241,235	(6,921,210)	-32.7%
Surplus Utilized	2,298,801	1,211,031	(1,087,770)	-47.3%
Miscellaneous (interest income, etc.)	<u>1,070,000</u>	<u>1,031,000</u>	<u>(39,000)</u>	<u>-3.6%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$144,324,521</u></b>	<b><u>\$140,361,479</u></b>	<b><u>(\$3,963,042)</u></b>	<b><u>-2.7%</u></b>

## 2010-2011 General Fund Appropriations

	Current Budget 2009-2010	Proposed Budget 2010-2011	Dollar Difference	Percentage Difference
Salaries	\$92,692,602	\$88,566,687	(\$4,125,915)	-4.5%
Employee Benefits (Health, Workers' Comp, PERS & SS)	22,497,915	23,808,496	1,310,581	5.8%
Transportation	9,916,046	9,912,586	(3,460)	0.0%
Utility Costs & Communications	4,170,000	4,214,400	44,400	1.1%
Tuition (Schools for children with special needs, vocational, etc.)	*2,412,080	4,039,775	1,627,695	67.5%
Curriculum, Textbooks, Supplies & Staff Training	3,623,621	2,596,910	(1,026,711)	-28.3%
Capital Lease Principal and Interest	2,087,456	1,146,706	(940,750)	-45.1%
Technology	932,500	701,185	(231,315)	-24.8%
Capital Projects/Services	320,000	240,000	(80,000)	-25.0%
Capital –Assessment (new 15% State assessment to cover debt service for grants previously awarded)	-	34,081	34,081	100.0%
Other: Includes Legal, Insurance, Building Maintenance, Audit, Copiers, Athletics, Health & Admin.	<u>5,672,301</u>	<u>5,100,653</u>	<u>(571,648)</u>	<u>-10.1%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$144,324,521</u></b>	<b><u>\$140,361,479</u></b>	<b><u>(\$3,963,042)</u></b>	<b><u>-2.7%</u></b>

\* In 2009-10 \$1,366,134 in one-time ARRA stimulus funds were used to fund tuition.

### How We Compare...

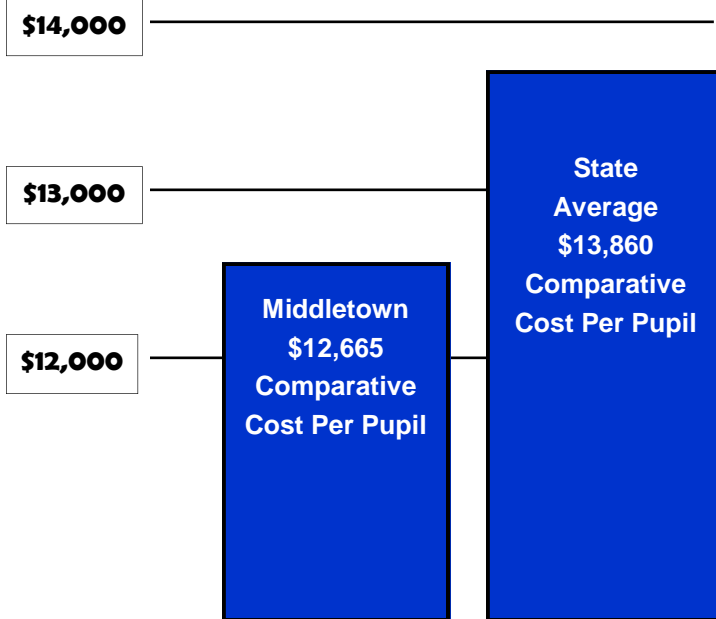
Monmouth County K-12 Operating Districts with more than 3,501 students	2009-2010 Comparative Cost Per Pupil	2009-2010 Comparative Cost Per Pupil State-wide Ranking
<b>LONG BRANCH</b>	\$16,163	<b>90th</b>
<b>NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP</b>	\$14,594	<b>74th</b>
<b>OCEAN TOWNSHIP</b>	\$14,015	<b>69th</b>
<b>MATAWAN-ABERDEEN REGIONAL</b>	\$13,406	<b>58th</b>
<b>MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>\$12,665</b>	<b>38th</b>
<b>WALL TOWNSHIP</b>	\$12,492	<b>34th</b>

- ♦ Middletown had the **second lowest cost per pupil** in Monmouth County K-12 operating districts with more than 3,501 students.
- ♦ Middletown was ranked **38th** out of 105 school districts State-wide, which means Middletown is approximately in the bottom third in terms of cost per pupil.
- ♦ With the 2010-11 budget being lower than the prior year, we expect to see a reduction in our cost per pupil.

## Comparing Per Pupil Expenditure



In the recent N.J. School Comparative Spending Guide, Middletown was **\$1,195 below** the state average in per pupil spending for K-12 school districts.



Please visit our District Website at:

[www.middletownk12.org](http://www.middletownk12.org)

to view additional budget and district information.

ALSO

view the "Your Town, Your Schools" video budget presentation airing on

Comcast Channel 20

And

FiOS Channel 26

The week of April 12, 2010.



Middletown Board of Education  
59 Tindall Road  
Middletown, NJ 07748

Mrs. Karen L. Bilbao, Superintendent

Mr. William Doering, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

NON-PROFIT  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
Red Bank, NJ  
07701  
Permit No. 703

**CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT  
POSTAL CUSTOMER LOCAL**



***Vote Tuesday, April 20, 2010***

**Polls open from 4 pm - 9 pm**

Polling locations are the same as General Election

See your sample ballot for your polling location

For more information check our website at:

<http://www.middletownk12.org>