

# Don't Forget To Vote!

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

Wards 1 & 2 South Boonton Firehouse

Wards 3 & 4 Senior Citizen Center

Polls Are Open From 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In years past, the School Budget Vote & Board of Education Election was always held on the second Tuesday of April. This year, the New Jersey Department of Education altered that practice. I respectfully urge you to take note of the [new voting date](#). Information about Boonton Public Schools' budget has been presented at recent Board of Education Meetings and was featured in the local newspapers. In addition, I have been hosting budget meetings to discuss our financial plan for the 2011-2012 school year.

The 2011-2012 School District Budget is being presented to the voters of Boonton with a [0% tax levy increase and no Special Questions](#). The \$22,378,362 budget reflects both the maintenance and enhancement of educational programs and extra- and co-curricular opportunities for our students. Without raising taxes over last year's budget, this proposed plan does not eliminate any academic or extra-curricular programs and includes the same number of class sections at each grade level, K-8, without increasing class size. In order to make not raising educational taxes in the community a reality, the district focused on cost savings measures and generating additional revenue. While we are not filling two positions which will become vacant due to retirements, we are also reducing our staff by one certified administrator and one support teacher. In addition, we have been able to postpone outsourcing custodial services as a result of employee concessions and positive communication between the Board of Education and the Boonton Education Association.

Funds used to support initiatives in each budget year will support the implementation of the following new initiatives for the 2011-2012 school year:

- District-wide Bullying Prevention Program
- Elementary and Middle School Gifted and Talented and School-wide Enrichment Program
- Enhancements and Partnership with Montclair State University
- New Middle School Technology Program
- District-wide Mathematics Program Enhancements
- High School Mathematics and Language Arts Professional Development
- Grade 12 Literature Anthology Series
- Expanded Vocational and Structured Learning Experiences
- Expanded High School Library Hours
- District-wide Student Wellness On-line Portal
- Comprehensive Parent and Guardian College and Future Options Planning Program
- District-wide Parent/Teacher On-line Portal
- After Hours' Computer Lab Access for Parents and Guardians

If you would like to cast a vote but will not be able to do so in person, there is still time to obtain an Absentee Voter Application from the Boonton Schools' web site or from the Morris County Clerk's Office at [www.morriscountyclerk.org](http://www.morriscountyclerk.org). The deadline for mailing in your Absentee Voter Application is Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for delivering your Absentee Voter Application in person is Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Collectively, the Board of Education, administrative team and I have remained committed to developing and putting forward a fiscally responsible budget that represents the necessary expenses needed not only to maintain, but also to enhance the scope and quality of our educational programs. I am confident that this type of fiscal management and effective oversight is what this community expects and deserves. Thank you in advance for your continued support and your belief that strong public schools are essential to our students and to the community of Boonton.

Sincerely,

*Christine A. Johnson*

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Superintendent of Schools