

A Note from the Superintendent of Schools 2011-2012 School Budget

March 25, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Boonton School District:

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 includes the same number of class sections at each grade level, K-8, without increasing class size. In order to arrive at our decision not to raise educational taxes in the community, the district is exploring the potential of privatizing custodial services in the same manner in which it has privatized cafeteria services and has decided to eliminate one administrative position. There will also be a re-design of the high school administrative structure resulting in cost savings, with the intent to increase student achievement. In addition, the district will not fill the vacancies of two retirements and will reduce one support staff teaching position due to a reduction in needs. 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
- After Hours' Computer Lab Access for Parents and Guardians
- District-wide Student Wellness On-line Portal
- Comprehensive Parent and Guardian College and Future Options Planning Program
- District-wide Parent/Teacher On-line Portal

In order to provide you with as much information as you may need to cast an educated vote on Wednesday, April 27th between the hours of 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., I respectfully invite you to attend the Public Hearing at the Board of Education Meeting on Monday, March 28th at the Boonton High School Auditorium, beginning at 7:30 p.m. I also encourage you to learn more about the budget and all of the

new initiatives, including the High School re-design plan by attending any of the following 2011-2012 Budget Information Sessions:

- Wednesday, March 30th at the JHS Library from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 12th at the SSS Library from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 13th at the Board of Education Office from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, April 14th at the Board of Education Office from 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
- Monday, April 18th at the BHS Library from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 19th at the Board of Education Office from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

If you are not able to attend any informational sessions, a power point presentation of our proposed budget highlighting comparative data, educational initiatives, proposed expenditures, and anticipated revenues along with supporting documents can be found on our district's web site (www.boontonschools.org). I urge you to visit our web site and familiarize yourself with our district's budget information. In order to encourage community members to provide valuable input or to ask questions, I have set up an e-mail address (budget@boontonschools.org) so that you can forward your questions directly to us. If you do not have access to the internet, you may request budget information from my office at (973) 335-3994 ext. 230.

If you are not yet registered to vote and would like to do so, you may obtain voter registration information from the Boonton Schools' web site. You may also contact the Morris County Clerk's Office at (973) 829-8219 or www.morriscountyclerk.org. The last day to register to vote is Wednesday, April 6th.

If you would like to cast a vote but will not be able to do so in person, you may also obtain an Absentee Voter Application from the Boonton Schools' web site or from the Morris County Clerk's Office at www.morriscountyclerk.org. The deadline for mailing in your Absentee Voter Application is Wednesday, April 20th. The deadline for delivering your Absentee Voter Application in person is Tuesday, April 26th.

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

Christine A. Johnson
Superintendent of Schools