

# LIBERTY



## Central School District Budget Issue 11-12

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The mission of the Liberty Central School District is to inspire all students to pursue their dreams and to contribute and thrive in a diverse community.

## Budget vote set for May 17

### Residents to decide on \$40 million budget

*Spending will rise by 2.4% in 2011-12 under a proposed \$40,006,649 budget to be submitted to Liberty School District voters on Tuesday, May 17. Under this plan, the tax levy would increase by an estimated 2.6%.*

“This is one of the most difficult budgets the district has ever had to put together,” says Superintendent Michael Vanyo. For the second straight year, the district will see a big reduction in state aid. Just before April 1, the state legislature passed an on-time budget restoring some aid, but Liberty’s loss for next year still stands at nearly \$1 million.

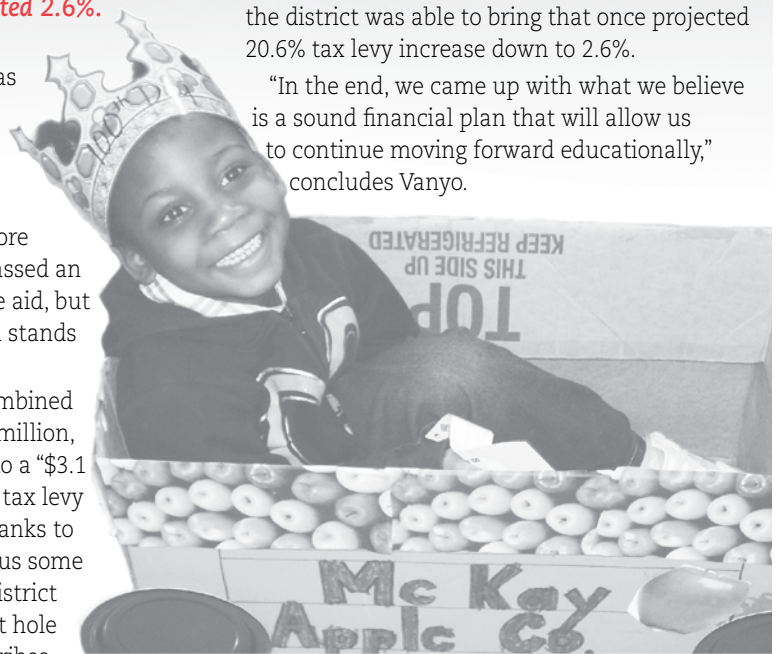
That state aid reduction, combined with rising costs totaling \$2.1 million, would have put the district into a “\$3.1 million hole,” with a projected tax levy increase of 20.6%. However, thanks to good planning in past years plus some careful cutting this year, the district has climbed its way out of that hole with a budget that Vanyo describes as “respectful of the needs of our students, as well as our taxpayers.”

The proposed budget calls for nearly \$1.2 million in cuts, mainly in staffing. “This was a painful process, but we tried to do it in a way that causes the least harm to students and their learning,” says Vanyo. For example, even with the trimmed-down staff, class sizes should remain the same.

In addition to the cuts, the district

will draw an unprecedented amount – about \$1.5 million – from its fund balance and reserve accounts. This money, available because of careful management in years gone by, will be used as revenues towards next year’s budget. As a result, the district was able to bring that once projected 20.6% tax levy increase down to 2.6%.

“In the end, we came up with what we believe is a sound financial plan that will allow us to continue moving forward educationally,” concludes Vanyo.



### 2011-12 budget at-a-glance

<b>Proposed budget</b>	\$40,006,649
<b>Budget increase</b>	+2.4%
<b>Estimated tax levy</b>	+2.6%

### Vote Tuesday, May 17, 2011

12 noon to 9 p.m.  
Liberty High School Gymnasium

## Liberty grapples with two years of steeply declining state aid

*Massive reductions in state support for education is taking its toll on school districts everywhere, including Liberty. In 2010-11, Liberty lost \$1.2 million in state aid; and in 2011-12, it will lose another \$1 million. That adds up to an overall reduction of \$1,350 per Liberty student.*

The district did receive some federal funds this year (\$647,000) and will receive more next year (\$541,000) to keep people working; but by 2012-13, this federal money is expected to dry up. "These programs allow us to maintain positions for the short-term, but they don't do anything for the long-term," says Superintendent Michael Vanyo.

For Liberty, the state aid formula itself is a problem. "Because of the way it works, the state aid cuts are disproportionate, impacting poor rural districts like ours more than affluent suburban districts," says Vanyo. The New York Times recently illustrated this problem by comparing the wealthy Syosset School District with its poorer counterpart, the Ilion School District – showing that in percentage terms, the state aid cuts are making a much bigger dent in Ilion's budget than in Syosset's.

Liberty is considered a "high needs" district in terms of its local wealth and student population. Yet the percentage of its budget funded by state aid has been declining, going from 50% two years ago down to a projected 47% in 2011-12. "This decline would have been even worse had we not been able to contain the expense side of our budget by becoming more efficient," says Vanyo.

He worries that if these state aid cuts keep coming, the district will inevitably face the prospect of larger class sizes, fewer course offerings and reduced services. "We can only tighten our belts so far before it will begin to hurt our students and their education," concludes Vanyo.

### State aid restoration

The district's state aid picture would have been worse next year had it not been for a last-minute restoration of \$289,000. That money was used to restore some positions and to lower the tax levy. "We had hoped for more, but we understand this is a difficult financial climate," says Superintendent Michael Vanyo.



While the district will be taking money from its current reserve accounts, it will ask voters to approve setting up a new one – a capital reserve to help pay for future building costs. "This may seem like a strange time to do this, but it actually makes good sense from a long-range planning standpoint," says Superintendent Michael Vanyo. For more, see page 6.

## District to draw on its "rainy day" reserves

For some years now, the Liberty School District has been carefully building its fund balance and reserves, essentially saving money for a rainy day. "Well, that rainy day has come," says Superintendent Michael Vanyo. As a result, the district has developed a five-year plan to use a large part of this money as revenue to offset state aid losses.

Whereas this year the district carried over \$250,000, next year it will apply \$1,564,702 as revenues to the 2011-12 budget, with approximately \$1.15 million coming from the fund balance and \$412,000 from the reserves. "This will get us to a 2.6% tax levy increase without killing our programs," says Vanyo.

The district has seven designated reserve accounts with a total of \$3.4 million, plus an undesignated fund balance that varies from year to year but can go no higher than 4% of the budget. The money in these accounts came from unused funds in prior years. "We don't spend money just because we have it. In fact, we try to be very careful, always looking ahead to the future," says Vanyo.

Both the fund balance and reserves protect the district from sudden spikes in taxes. For example, there is an unemployment reserve to help pay for claims in times such as now when staff members are being laid off. "We could, as some have suggested, use up the money all at once, but if things get worse, it would leave us in a major bind," says Vanyo. For that reason, the district's plan calls for doling the money out in smaller chunks over a five-year period.

Vanyo, of course, hopes the economic situation improves before the five years are up so that the district can restore, rather than deplete these accounts. "This plan buys us a degree of financial stability over the short-term, but it is by no means the answer to the district's long-term financial health," he concludes.

# Liberty pares down its staff in the face of rising costs

Liberty School officials began the budget process with a projected \$2.1 million hike in expenditures, but they were able to pare it down to a \$953,000 increase, primarily with staffing reductions.

The first estimates were contained in what is known as the “rollover budget” – one that continues with the existing staff and programs. The biggest drivers in this rollover budget increase were salaries, health insurance, retirement contributions, energy costs, and debt service. The first four would have contributed to significantly higher taxes. The last one, debt service, would not have done so, since it is mostly offset by higher state building aid payments.

Superintendent Michael Vanyo notes that the district has little or no control over retirement contributions and energy costs – the first being dictated by the state and the second by the private sector. Regarding salaries and health insurance, the district is locked into contracts but will begin talks in the near future. “We will be negotiating with the present economic difficulties in mind,” he adds.

## How the cuts will impact students

In the meantime, the district took steps to reduce spending in the least hurtful way to students. “We tried to balance the cuts across all areas of instruction,” says Assistant Superintendent Carol Napolitano. “And everywhere we cut, we tried to find an alternative for students so we can offer them the same program in a different way.”

For example, next year the district will no longer provide driver education during the school year but will make it available in the summer free of charge. Also, the high school business program will be eliminated because of declining enrollment, but the district will continue to offer a full high school business credit to grades 7-8 students in keyboarding and computer applications. And down the road, the district hopes to expand its business offerings through distance learning (see page 6).

In music, the fourth-grade instrumental

program will be eliminated, delaying the onset until fifth grade. In athletics, there will be fewer assistant coaches, but the students will have the same sports teams available. The late sports buses will run only three days a week, but the district will try to schedule games on

the other two days when students have less need for those buses.

Beyond these examples, the budget reductions are likely to have little direct impact on students. With no elementary classroom teacher cuts, average class sizes will remain at 21. And even with the secondary position cuts, the district expects to maintain current class sizes by doing a more careful job of scheduling.

## Reductions in the proposed budget

*The proposed 2011-12 budget calls for \$1,178,156 in reductions. This includes the elimination of 24 positions, constituting 18.6 FTE's (full-time equivalents). Two of these position cuts will be accomplished by taking advantage of retirements.*

### STAFFING REDUCTIONS

Health teacher (part-time)

Guidance counselor

Driver education teacher

HS English teacher (by attrition)

Business education teacher

Science teacher

Administrator

Senior typist (by attrition)

One teacher assistant

Five full-time teacher aides

Eight part-time teacher aides

Copy clerk (part-time)

Cafeteria monitor (part-time)

### OTHER REDUCTIONS

Ten assistant coaches

6 p.m. late bus runs reduced from five to three days a week

Part-time BOCES instrumental music teacher in grade 4 eliminated

Student Resource Officer reduced from four to three days a week

Elementary summer school staff reduced from 18 to 14 teachers

Supplies, conferences and field trips reduced by 10%

### POSITION RESTORATIONS

*The proposed budget includes \$189,000 from restored state aid to be used for unassigned positions. With this money, district officials will most likely restore some of the positions listed for reduction but have not yet decided which ones.*

## Administration not spared from cuts

When it comes to saving money, no part of the budget is untouchable – including administration. Next year, the district will merge the middle and high schools administratively, thus eliminating one principal's position. There will continue to be an assistant principal at both schools as well as a part-time high school dean. The district will also assign a current administrator (athletic director) to spend part of his day helping with discipline issues at the middle school. This move will save \$125,000.

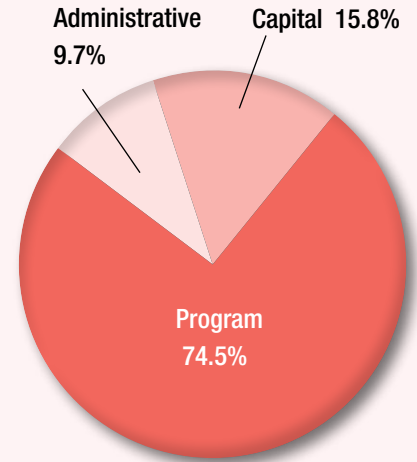
The middle and high schools, located on one campus and connected by a hallway, serve fewer than 900 students in grades 5-12. “We feel we can maintain the integrity of the program with one principal rather than two,” says Superintendent Michael Vanyo.

This is the third administrative reduction in three years. In 2010-11, Liberty eliminated the position of Assistant Superintendent for Business and moved many of its business functions to Sullivan County BOCES, saving \$67,000 annually. Likewise, in 2009-10, the district eliminated one of two high school assistant principal positions, reducing it to a part-time dean.



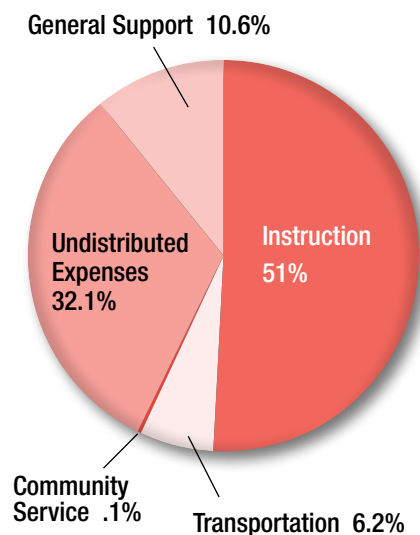
## Budget summary in three parts

There are three major components to a school budget: Program, administrative and capital. Liberty's capital budget represents the biggest spending increase in 2011-12, primarily due to the \$35.8 million building improvement project coming fully onto the books. The district's total debt payment next year for all projects will be \$2.9 million, but state building aid will offset it by \$2.6 million, absorbing nearly 89% of the cost. The district was able to maximize its state aid reimbursement and minimize the cost to local taxpayers by paying off some old debts early.



Liberty CSD 3-Part Budget	Budget 2010-11	Proposed 2011-12	Dollar Change
Administrative component	\$3,695,165	\$3,866,279	\$171,114
Program component	\$29,789,534	\$29,832,556	\$43,022
Capital component	\$5,568,994	\$6,307,814	\$738,820
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$39,053,693</b>	<b>\$40,006,649</b>	<b>\$952,956</b>

## 2011-12 proposed budget



## Budget breakdown 2011-12

General Support	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
Board of Education	\$26,479	\$24,076	-\$2,403
Central Administration	\$231,443	\$229,950	-\$1,493
Finance	\$426,394	\$391,334	-\$35,060
Staff (Personnel, Legal)	\$200,509	\$240,339	\$39,830
Central Services (O&M, Printing & Mail)	\$2,560,224	\$2,688,336	\$128,112
Special Items (Insurance, BOCES Admin.)	\$679,239	\$673,239	-\$6,000
<b>Total General Support</b>	<b>\$4,124,288</b>	<b>\$4,247,274</b>	<b>\$122,986</b>

Instruction	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
Supervision of Schools	\$1,337,405	\$1,289,137	-\$48,268
Teaching/Regular School	\$10,830,224	\$10,256,062	-\$574,162
Special Education	\$6,356,917	\$6,451,510	\$94,593
Instructional Media	\$962,474	\$976,882	\$14,408
Pupil Services	\$1,540,071	\$1,428,811	-\$111,260
<b>Total Instruction</b>	<b>\$21,027,091</b>	<b>\$20,402,402</b>	<b>-\$624,689</b>

Pupil Transportation	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
District Services	\$70,376	\$59,383	-\$10,993
Contractual Services	\$2,424,492	\$2,434,898	\$10,406
<b>Total Transportation</b>	<b>\$2,494,868</b>	<b>\$2,494,281</b>	<b>-\$587</b>

Community Service	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
Youth Program (Latch Key)	\$34,820	\$34,221	-\$599
Civic Activities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Census	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
<b>Total Community Service</b>	<b>\$39,820</b>	<b>\$39,221</b>	<b>-\$599</b>

Undistributed Expenses	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
Employee Benefits	\$8,840,842	\$9,633,735	\$792,893
Debt Service	\$2,251,784	\$2,939,736	\$687,952
Interfund Transfers	\$275,000	\$250,000	-\$25,000
<b>Total Undistributed</b>	<b>\$11,367,626</b>	<b>\$12,823,471</b>	<b>\$1,455,845</b>

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$39,053,693</b>	<b>\$40,006,649</b>	<b>\$952,956</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET INCREASE:</b>			<b>2.4%</b>

## For more budget information...

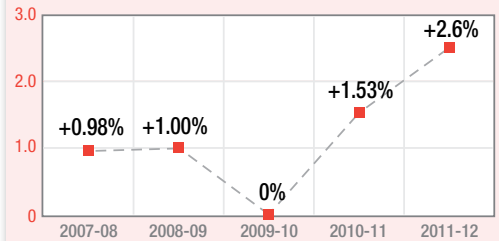
The full text of the budget is available for review on the district website, [www.libertyk12.org](http://www.libertyk12.org), or at the district office, 115 Buckley Street, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please direct any questions to Business Manager Lorine Lamerand, (845) 292-6171, or Superintendent Michael B. Vanyo, (845) 292-6990.

## Revenue summary for 2011-12

Local Sources	Budgeted 2010-11	Projected 2011-12	Dollar Change
1001: Real Property Tax	\$17,885,977	\$18,351,012	
1081: Other Payments In Lieu of Tax	\$465,000	\$420,000	
1090: Interest & Penalties on Taxes	\$90,000	\$90,000	
<b>1099: Total Real Property Tax Items</b>	<b>\$18,440,977</b>	<b>\$18,861,012</b>	<b>\$420,035</b>
<b>Charges for Services:</b>			
1410: Admissions	\$2,000	\$2,000	
1489: Other Charges for Services – Individuals	\$35,000	\$35,000	
2230: Day School Tuition - Other Districts	\$100,000	\$70,000	
2280: Health Services – Other Districts	\$30,000	\$20,000	
2389: Other Services – Other Districts	\$190,000	\$190,000	
<b>2399: Total Charges for Services</b>	<b>\$357,000</b>	<b>\$317,000</b>	<b>-\$40,000</b>
<b>Use of Money &amp; Property:</b>			
2401: Interest and Earnings	\$60,000	\$35,000	
<b>2499: Total Use of Money and Property</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>-\$25,000</b>
<b>Sale of Property &amp; Compensation for Loss:</b>			
2690: Other Compensation for Loss	\$3,000	\$3,000	
<b>2699: Total Sale of Property &amp; Compensation for Loss</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>			
2701: Refund of Prior Year's Expenses	\$90,000	\$120,000	
4601: Medicaid	\$65,000	\$30,000	
2770: Other Revenue	\$27,000	\$27,000	
<b>2799: Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$182,000</b>	<b>\$177,000</b>	<b>-\$5,000</b>
<b>State Aid:</b>			
3101: Hardware & Technology Aid	\$25,090	\$23,528	
3260: Software, Library & Textbook Aid	\$125,252	\$124,657	
3103: BOCES Aid	\$1,623,500	\$1,762,884	
3101: Building Aid	\$2,598,006	\$2,609,548	
3101: Transportation Aid	\$1,754,931	\$1,776,860	
3101: Foundation Aid	\$14,024,570	\$14,024,570	
3101-1: Public & Private Excess Cost Aid	\$464,257	\$471,333	
3101: High Tax Aid	\$403,926	\$403,926	
GAP Elimination Adj & Fed. Restoration	-\$1,258,816	-\$2,694,704	
GEA Restoration	\$0	\$286,027	
<b>2799: Total State Aid</b>	<b>\$19,760,716</b>	<b>\$18,788,629</b>	<b>-\$972,087</b>
5031: Interfund Revenue (Debt Service Fund)	\$0	\$260,306	\$260,306
<b>PROJECTED REVENUE</b>	<b>\$38,803,693</b>	<b>\$38,441,947</b>	<b>-\$361,746</b>
<b>APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$1,564,702</b>	<b>\$1,314,702</b>
<b>REVENUE + FUND BALANCE = TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$39,053,693</b>	<b>\$40,006,649</b>	<b>\$952,956</b>
<b>TAX LEVY CHANGE</b>			<b>2.6%</b>

## Comparison of tax levy increases over five years

Average increase over five years: 1.2% annually



### Tax LEVY impact of 2011-12 budget

Under the proposed budget, next year's tax levy will be \$18,351,012, an increase of 2.6%. The tax levy is the total amount a school district must collect from property owners and is figured after taking into account all other revenues, including state aid. Over the last four years, tax levy increases have ranged from 0% to 1.5%. However, the continual erosion of state aid is putting more and more upward pressure on the local tax levy. Even so, the average annual increase since 2007-08 stands at 1.2%.

### Tax RATE impact of 2011-12 budget

Tax rates – or the amount to be charged per \$1,000 of assessed value – are harder to predict, because they depend on two factors over which the district has no control – assessments and equalization rates, both of which will not be finalized by the towns until August. Over the last five years, tax rates in the Town of Liberty have been generally stable and have even declined slightly. This is due to shifting equalization rates as well as the addition of some new property to the town's tax rolls.

### Tax rate history in the Town of Liberty

2006-07	+3.5%
2007-08	-1.3%
2008-09	-1.9%
2009-10	-2.2%
2010-11	+1.6%

The Town of Liberty makes up the largest part of the school district and pays 82% of the school taxes. Portions of Bethel, Neversink, Callicoon, Thompson and Rockland pay the remaining 18%.

## Planning for the future, **Part I**

# Voters to decide on setting up a **Capital Reserve fund**

On May 17, the district will seek voter approval to establish a new capital reserve fund of up to \$5 million to be set up over 10 years. The goal will be to build this reserve account gradually, using surplus funds left over at the end of each school year. The money would ultimately go toward funding future building projects.

The proposal is being put forth partly out of concern about the future of state building aid. "There is talk of restructuring the building aid formula," says Superintendent Michael Vanyo. "It would NOT affect our current building project, but it could make it harder for us to get funding for future classroom renovations."

No new taxes will be levied to fund this account. Instead, the money will come from excess revenues or unspent appropriations. And even after the money is put into the account, the district cannot use it without additional voter approval. "The community has complete control over how these funds are spent," says Vanyo.

The district's soon-to-be-completed \$35.8 million building project was partially funded by a \$5 million capital reserve account established some years ago. That money plus state aid brought the local share of the cost down to 20%. This older capital reserve has been used up, except for a small amount of interest.

Vanyo notes that the current building project was always considered as phase 1 of an overall plan to upgrade facilities. Indeed, it was presented that way to voters in 2007. "We chose those improvements that most needed to be done, while delaying others we felt could wait," he says.

The earliest Liberty could go for another vote and still maximize state aid is 2012. However, district officials will most likely put it off until the economy grows stronger. "The work still needs to be done, but we realize this is not the time to do it," says Vanyo. "In the meantime, we will be better able to protect our investment in our facilities if we can begin saving money now."

**No new taxes  
would be levied to  
fund this account.**

## Planning for the future, **Part II**

# Enriching the curriculum in tough economic times

Despite the budget challenges, the Liberty School District will forge ahead with new ways to better educate all its children. "As we grow leaner, we are striving to grow academically stronger," says Assistant Superintendent Carol Napolitano.

One way to do this is to engage in more sharing with other school districts. To this end, Liberty recently took the seemingly small but potentially important step of setting up a common schedule with other Sullivan County schools. This could open the door to distance learning in Liberty, allowing for the sharing of courses with other districts via two-way television.

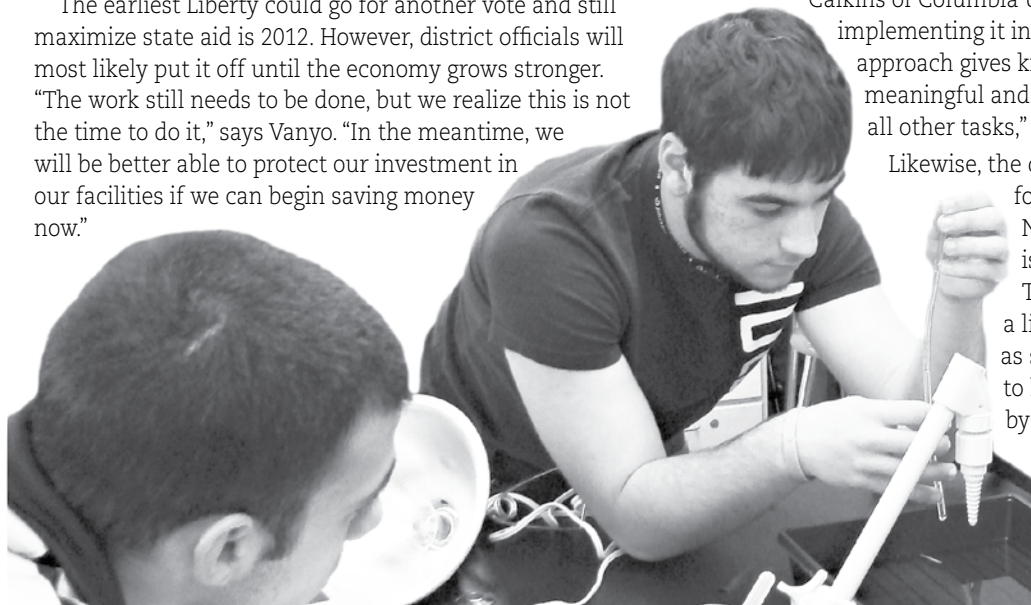
**Liberty will  
"test the waters"  
of distance learning.**

With distance learning, the district could compensate for the planned loss of its high school business program by tapping into business courses at other schools. It could also add new courses, such as agriculture or Mandarin Chinese. More importantly, distance learning could help Liberty keep the wealth of courses it already has, especially those offering college credit. "If we can build enrollment by sharing these classes, we will more likely save them in tough economic times," says Napolitano.

The district will "test the waters" of distance learning to see if it is viable and cost-effective. The staff will also continue employing tried and true methods to enrich its curriculum without spending a lot of money. These range from creating in-house experts in new educational approaches to using the resources of BOCES.

In the elementary school, for example, the teachers have been learning about the "writing process," developed by Lucy Calkins of Columbia University, and they have been gradually implementing it in the classrooms. "They are finding this approach gives kids the tools to make their writing meaningful and exciting, and it sharpens their brains for all other tasks," says Napolitano.

Likewise, the district is adopting a new science program for grades K-6 with the help of Putnam-North Westchester BOCES. Science 21, as it is called, is hands-on, with lots of lab work. The textbook is web-based and therefore is a living document that is constantly updated as science changes. It is also connected to literature, requiring a lot of reading by students. "This will allow us to infuse science and language arts to provide students with a more holistic education," concludes Napolitano.



# Liberty debuts the Wall of Fame

On June 25, Liberty Central School will bid farewell to graduating seniors and welcome a new class of honorees – the inaugural members of the Liberty Wall of Fame.

The Wall was created by the board of education to honor alumni, past employees and residents who have made a lasting contribution to the Liberty School District. This year's inductees were selected by a 12-member group of residents, alumni, faculty, administrators and board members, who could vote only for candidates who had valid nominations.

The inductees will be honored at a breakfast reception on graduation day and recognized at the graduation ceremony. The Wall of Fame is located in the Liberty High auditorium lobby. For more information, go to: [www.libertyk12.org](http://www.libertyk12.org).

## 2011 Wall of Fame inductees

**Dr. Irvin Borish (Class of 1930):** Known as the "Father of Optometry," Dr. Borish is a world-renowned professor, lecturer and pioneer in the field of optometry. He helped establish the Indiana University School of Optometry and holds three patents for contact lenses.

**James Burke (past faculty):** Mr. Burke served the Liberty School District for 32 years as a member of the faculty and administration. He established the Academic Block-L dinner/awards ceremony and devoted his life to academic excellence and the welfare of Liberty students.

**Alan Gerry (community member):** A pioneering entrepreneur in cable television, Mr. Gerry is a respected and generous supporter of the school district and community. He also developed the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts on the original 1969 Woodstock Concert site.

**Howard K. Schue (Class of 1959):** Mr. Schue has worked for 50 years in military, aerospace and intelligence activities, serving in government and industry. He has also served on congressional panels as an expert in reconnaissance and satellite development.

**Sister Patricia Ann Startup (Class of 1965):** A member of the Maryknoll Catholic sisterhood, she served in the Philippines, raising awareness of human rights violations. She also served in

## Fourth-grade mini-economy yields big returns

A group of Liberty fourth graders are learning all about economics in a very practical way. The two classes, taught jointly by Tracy Kline and Alicia Houghtaling, have been structured as a free-market mini-economy since they first came together in third grade.

Last year, they each took on jobs for which they were paid in classroom "money" that they could spend on such "necessities" as desk and locker rentals, as well as "luxuries" from the school store. They also established a classroom bank where all deposits and withdrawals are neatly recorded in a special ledger. In the process, they learned many basic

concepts such as counting, saving, earning, buying and budgeting. This year, they have gone a step further, selling their own home-made products at monthly free-market days and getting a lesson in marketing and the law of supply and demand.

Besides the financial aspects, the students are learning about responsibility and the concept that actions have consequences. For example, poor job performance results in docked pay. "This is what real life is going to be like," says student Angel Giarratano-Rogers. "I am glad we are learning this so we're prepared when we grow up."



These fourth graders are learning real-life economic lessons, while managing their classroom "bank."

## LUNCH MENU-JUNE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		<b>1</b> Cheese Pizza Sandwich Variety	<b>2</b> Baked Meatloaf Egg Salad Sandwich	<b>3</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Variety
<b>6</b> Hamburger/Bun Sandwich Variety	<b>7</b> Spaghetti Tuna Salad Plate	<b>8</b> Chili Con Carne Sandwich Variety	<b>9</b> Cheese Pizza Sandwich Variety	<b>10</b> Macaroni & Cheese Tuna Salad Plate
<b>13</b> Hamburger/Bun Sandwich Variety	<b>14</b> Baked Ham Egg Salad Sandwich	<b>15</b> Hot Dog/Roll Sandwich Variety	<b>16</b> Chicken Patty/Bun Sandwich Variety	<b>17</b> Cheese Pizza Sandwich Variety
<b>20</b> Hot Dog/Roll Sandwich Variety	<b>21</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Variety	<b>22</b> Cheese Pizza Sandwich Variety	<b>23</b> Hamburger/Bun Sandwich Variety	<b>24</b> Early Dismissal Have a great summer!

Zimbabwe, working with thousands of displaced persons fleeing wars, drought and poverty in eight African countries.

**Lawrence Stier (Class of 1945):** A life-long resident of Liberty, Mr. Stier served as Assistant County Attorney, Liberty Town Attorney, Liberty councilman, and as a town and village judge. He was also instrumental in the construction of

Ahavath Israel Synagogue in Liberty and Catskill Regional Medical Center in Harris, N.Y.

**Charles "Woody" Witherwax (past faculty):** Athletic director, teacher and coach from 1951-1976, Mr. Witherwax was a well loved and well respected faculty member who was influential in the development of athletic programs at Liberty.

# LIBERTY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
115 Buckley Street  
Liberty, NY 12754

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8



Budget Issue 11-12

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 • 12 to 9 p.m.

Liberty High School Gymnasium

### Voter qualifications

- U.S. citizen
- District resident for 30 days or more
- At least 18 years old as of May 17, 2011
- Registered to vote by May 12, 2011

### Voter registration deadline – May 12

- Registration: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F, at the Liberty Central School District Office, 115 Buckley Street, Liberty, NY

### Ballot Propositions

- 2011-12 budget: \$40,006,649
- Capital Reserve fund: Not to exceed \$5 million

### School board candidates *Vote for three:*

- Christine Schiff   ■ Anthony Covington
- Cindy L. Conklin

## STAR impact on school tax bills

Most homeowners who are signed up for the Basic or Enhanced STAR program will continue to receive an exemption on their tax bills. However, due to a new law, homeowners with a household income above \$500,000 can no longer take a STAR exemption. Also, past changes in the STAR legislation may continue to impact homeowners, causing the amount of their STAR exemption to decline. The school district has no control over these issues.

## Liberty Central School District Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for the 2010-11 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2011-12 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2011-12 School Year*
Total budgeted amount	\$39,053,693	\$40,006,649	\$39,692,561
Increase/decrease for the 2011-12 school year		\$952,956	\$638,868
Percentage increase(decrease) in each proposed budget		2.4%	1.6%
Change in the consumer price index		1.6%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2011-12 school year		\$18,351,012	\$18,036,924
Administrative component	\$3,695,165	\$3,866,279	\$3,659,627
Program component	\$29,789,534	\$29,832,556	\$29,655,478
Capital component	\$5,568,994	\$6,307,814	\$6,377,456

\* The proposed 2011-12 budget is \$443,048 below the state-mandated level required for a contingent budget. Even so, if the budget is not approved by voters, the district would be required to remove some items, including certain equipment, some student supplies and community use of facilities.

## Basic STAR Exemption Impact

### ESTIMATED BASIC STAR EXEMPTION SAVINGS:

	Budget Proposed for the 2011-12 School Year
BASIC STAR TAX SAVINGS	\$641

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2011-12 by the qualified voters of the Liberty Central School District, Sullivan County, New York, will be held at Liberty Central School(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, between the hours of 12 noon and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.