



Island Trees School District

Excellence and Success for All Students

Volume 17, No. 4

BUDGET EDITION

April 2008

Island Trees Budget Maintains Excellence in Education!


The Proposed Tax Levy Increase of 2.60% is Again Among the Lowest in the County!

In spite of increasingly difficult financial trends, the budget proposed for the 2008-2009 school year is fiscally sound and maintains our excellent educational programs. The tax levy increase is yet again *among the lowest in Nassau County!* The Board of Education has worked very hard to keep taxes from rising as much as possible while ensuring that our excellent educational program is maintained and the needs of our children are met.

The proposed budget ensures that we can provide a comprehensive instructional program that gives every child the opportunity to achieve excellence and success. Funds are included in this proposal to purchase new textbooks in the areas of integrated algebra, science, business and music. We will continue our curriculum mapping initiative in the area of arts, expand staff and curriculum development programs, implement a new College Center at the high school, upgrade our technology program at the Island Trees Memorial Middle School, implement additional academic support services at the elementary level, upgrade our computer technology infrastructure throughout the district, purchase a T-1 Navigator System to enhance instruction in mathematics and implement Commerce Plaza, a curriculum designed to promote an understanding of the world of business and its economics for fifth grade students.

Funds are also included in this budget proposal to implement Connect-Ed, a school-to-parent notification system that will ensure important messages are sent to all parents from a school or district office simultaneously, within seconds. Also included is appropriate funding to maintain our buildings and grounds and to begin a comprehensive program to refurbish our playing fields throughout the district.

Our proposed budget reflects a 5.53% increase in expenditures. As indicated above, the amount to be raised in taxes, or tax levy, is 2.60%, which is among the lowest in Nassau County! The Board of Education, administration and staff have once again prepared a budget proposal that meets the needs of our students and is fiscally sound. All residents are encouraged to participate in our school budget vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

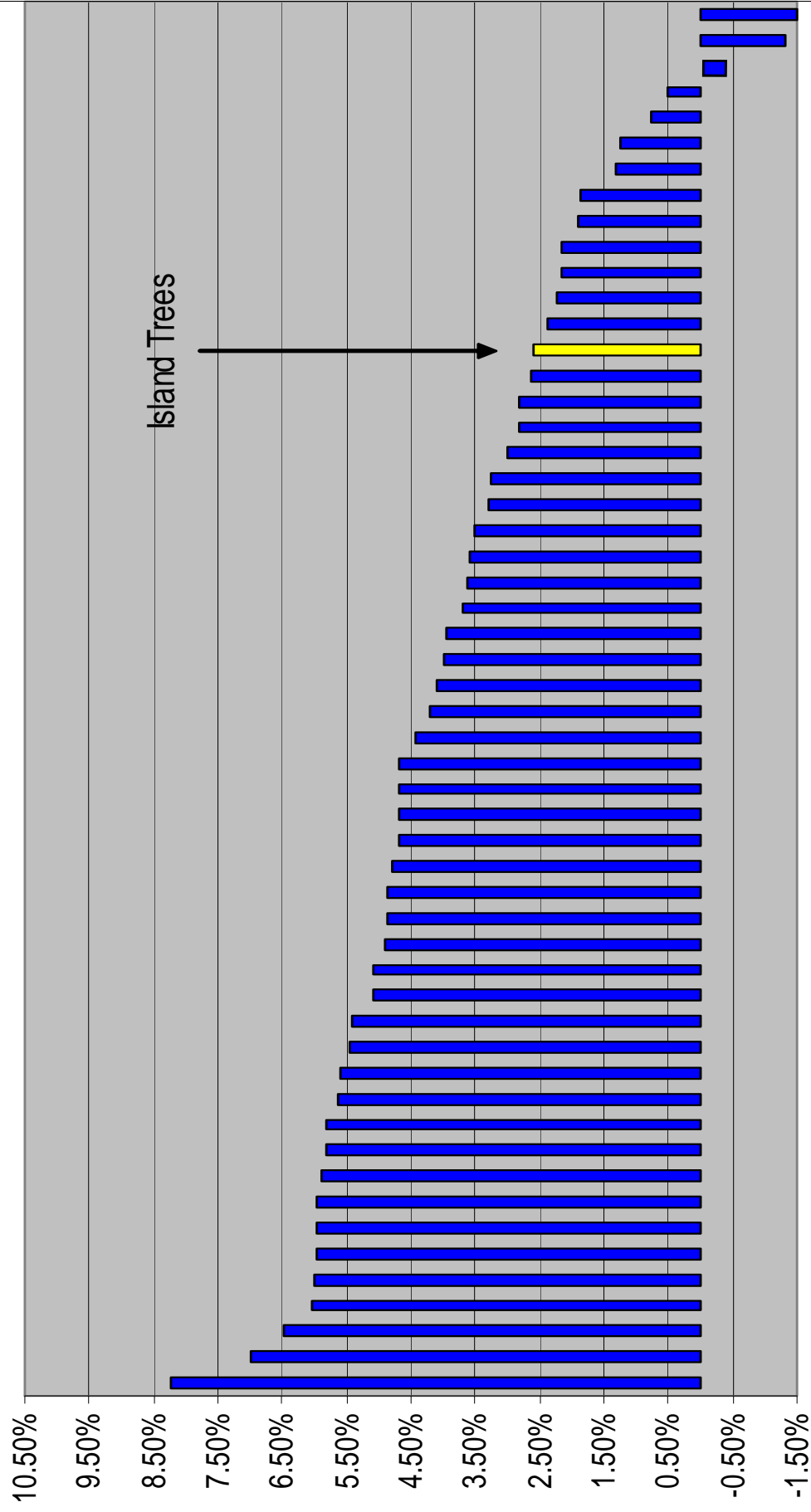


Please consider
this proposal
carefully.

We look forward to your support and invite you to a Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 8:00 PM in the Geneva N. Gallow School. Voting on this proposal will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, from 12 Noon to 9:00 PM at the Michael F. Stokes School.

2008-09 Tax Levy Increases

NASSAU COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS



School Districts Reporting As Of April 2008

PROPOSED 2008-09 BUDGET

EXPENDITURES

	2007-2008 Budget	Proposed 2008-2009 Budget	+/-
<i>General Support</i>	\$ 5,542,113	\$ 5,907,507	
<i>Instruction</i>	32,695,024	34,697,497	
<i>Pupil Transportation</i>	2,622,229	2,732,778	
<i>Community Services</i>	28,358	28,358	
<i>Undistributed Expenses</i>	10,951,693	11,339,445	
	\$ 51,839,417	\$ 54,705,585	5.53%

REVENUES

	2007-2008	2008-2009
<i>Fund Balance*</i>	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,100,000
<i>Designated from Employee Liab Reserve</i>	\$ 800,000	\$ 100,000
<i>Designated from Employee Retirement Reserve</i>	\$ -	\$ 400,000
<i>Designated from Bond Fund</i>	\$ 230,546	\$ -
<i>Designated from Capital Fund</i>	\$ 383,627	\$ -
<i>State Aid</i>	12,896,102	15,000,000
<i>Nassau County Drug Program</i>	27,000	28,800
<i>Charges for Services</i>	171,000	171,000
<i>Real Property Rental</i>	576,617	613,000
<i>Interest Earnings</i>	350,000	400,000
<i>Other Revenues</i>	76,000	160,000
	\$ 17,010,892	\$ 18,972,800

*Fund balance represents the net result of operations for the previous year. It is included as revenue for the following year and serves to reduce the amount to be raised by school taxes.

TAX LEVY

	2007-08	2008-09	
<i>Tax Levy</i>	\$ 34,828,525	\$ 35,732,785	2.60%

The Nassau County Board of Assessors, NOT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, sets the school tax rate, therefore school taxes for each individual is impacted by changes in assessed value as determined by the Assessor's office.

3-PART BUDGET COMPARISON

Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1997 now require school districts to divide their annual budget into three components. Therefore, for your review, we have divided our budget into the three components as prescribed by the Uniform System of Accounts for school districts.

	2007-08		2008-09	
<i>Administrative</i>	\$4,836,451	9.33%	\$5,050,001	9.23%
<i>Program</i>	41,123,784	79.33%	43,250,403	79.06%
<i>Capital</i>	5,879,182	11.34%	6,405,181	11.71%
TOTAL	\$51,839,417	100.00%	\$54,705,585	100.00%