Shoreham-Wading River School District

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

Remember To Vote:
Tuesday, May 15, 2001
7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

ON ELECTION DAY, MAY 15, 2001, YOU WILL VOTE ON THIS PROPOSITION AND CANDIDATES:

YES  NO  PROPOSITION #1:
RESOLVED, that the Budget as proposed by the Board of Education of the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District, Towns of Brookhaven and Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York, for the 2001-2002 Fiscal School Year be adopted in the amount of $35,329,887 and so much thereof as may be necessary shall be raised by a levy of tax upon the taxable property of said school district.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - VOTE FOR TWO (2) - THREE YEAR TERM

David Blackmore  Joseph Carbone  Marie Hodess  Scott Ericson

Shoreham-Wading River School District
250 Route 25A
Shoreham, New York 11786

**ECRWSS**
POSTAL PATRON
We are presenting this budget of $35,329,887 for your consideration. We are confident that this budget, adopted unanimously by the Board of Education, is fiscally responsible and provides a quality education for our students.

Respectfully,

Marie Hodess, 
Board President

## EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

In order to meet the academic requirements of the district, a number of educational initiatives have been included in the budget.

- Maintain desirable class size
- Reinstall additional athletic programs at the Middle School and High School
- Add Assistant Principal at the High School devoted to Curriculum and Instruction
- Restore school plays in the High School and Middle School
- Provide additional instructional positions
- Increase staff development funding for the improvement of instruction
- Hire an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Offer Academic Intervention Services (AIS) in High School for remediation
- Provide Differentiation of Instruction, including enrichment in the classroom.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed budget represents a spending increase of 4.04% and a tax rate increase of 17.1%. Please remember that this year the district is losing $3.2 million in pilot payments, which dramatically increases the tax rate.

If the proposed budget is rejected by the voters, we can put up a revised budget. If the second one fails, the district would adopt a contingency budget. Under contingency, state law provides for a spending cap of the lesser of 4% or 120% of the Consumer Price Index. With contingency, transfers of funds may not be made between capital, administrative and instructional lines. **No Exceptions can be made for “non-contingency” items. The district may not address the following under contingency:**

- Co-Curricular activities
- New Equipment
- Public use of Buildings and Grounds
- Non-essential maintenance
- Capital expenses except for emergencies
- Student supplies that can be purchased in the community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Proposed Budget</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Support</td>
<td>$1,103,535</td>
<td>-4.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>1,961,401</td>
<td>7.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>3,062,570</td>
<td>20.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>20,960,009</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>1,865,215</td>
<td>17.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>6,056,172</td>
<td>4.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt</td>
<td>320,985</td>
<td>-13.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,329,887</strong></td>
<td>4.04%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
River School Budget

The actual contingency budget could cost more than the recommended budget. The taxpayer would be paying more, and would be getting less services for your children under contingency.

A defeated budget can have a negative impact on the district's bond rating. If the budget is defeated, programs may be curtailed and class sizes could increase. The reputation of the district and property values could suffer.

The Board of Education has supported the proposed budget for 2001-2002. I urge you to exercise your right to vote on May 15.

Sincerely,

Robert Pellicone Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>11.42%</td>
<td>11.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic</td>
<td>77.57%</td>
<td>77.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>11.01%</td>
<td>11.05%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Contingency</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Spending</td>
<td>$35,329,887</td>
<td>$35,873,329</td>
<td>$543,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spending Increase</td>
<td>+4.04%</td>
<td>5.64%</td>
<td>1.64 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Rate Increase</td>
<td>+17.11%</td>
<td>19.34%</td>
<td>2.23 pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"The taxpayer would be paying more, and would be getting less services for your children under contingency."

Dr. Pellicone

The School Budget and Board Member election will be held on Tuesday, May 15th, 2001 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. at the Shoreham-Wading River High School.

Qualified voters must already be registered, or must register by May 8th.

Absentee ballots applications are available from the District Clerk and can be obtained at the District's Offices between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Last Year Budget</th>
<th>$ Change v. Last Yr</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Property Tax</td>
<td>$28,504,686</td>
<td>$24,340,054</td>
<td>$4,164,632</td>
<td>17.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot Payments</td>
<td>3,208,468</td>
<td>6,416,936</td>
<td>-3,208,468</td>
<td>-50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>2,595,733</td>
<td>2,441,000</td>
<td>154,733</td>
<td>6.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Tuition</td>
<td>611,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>611,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>213,500</td>
<td>36,500</td>
<td>17.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>46,500</td>
<td>113,500</td>
<td>244.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds Applied to Reduce Taxes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>-500,000</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$35,329,887</td>
<td>$33,957,990</td>
<td>$1,371,897</td>
<td>4.04%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NAME: David Blackmore
ADDRESS: 6325 N. Country Rd.,
Wading River, NY
PHONE: 631 929-4977

EDUCATION:
- Denver Automotive and Diesel College
- Nassau Community College Technician Training
- Suburban Technical School Digital Electronics

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:
- Member 1999-2000 SWR School District Budget
  Advisory Committee
- Member SWR School District Technology Committee
- Member SWRKPC
- Board Member Wildcat Athletic Club

PROFESSIONAL OR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS:
For over twelve years, I have been employed by Covanta Energy. For the past six of those years I have been the Facility Manager of a 80 million dollar Waste to Energy Facility, located in Babylon N.Y.

In this position I am responsible for the day-to-day operation including Environmental Compliance, Employee safety, Production, Budgeting, Long-term plans and goals.

ENUMERATION OF SPECIFIC PRIORITIES IF ELECTED:
1. Ensure financial accountability.
   In my professional role as a manager my employment depends on my ability to face problems and find solutions within my budget. I have done this successfully for 3 years in my present position.

2. Continuity of administration.
   I believe that relationships with School superintendents should be well defined. I believe that a Superintendent who stays with a school district can bring increased value to the district he or she serves. I believe it is important to develop a climate of trust and respect in which both board and Superintendent can work together in the most productive way. This has clearly not happened. I find it entirely unacceptable that we have gone through six Superintendents in the last six year.

   Stability from the top will facilitate hiring and retention of the best staff within the entire school system.

3. Establish a productive relationship with our legislators so that SWR can collect its fair share of state aid.
   Neighboring districts receive 40%-50% of their budget revenue in state aid. SWR gets less than 7%. We are short millions of dollars that we must begin to collect to put our district on a sound footing. We receive our last LIPA payment in 2001-02. Until SWR receives its fair share of state aid, we will continue to pay large tax increases.

4. Work with the Superintendent to establish priorities and goals.
   The district must present a logical long-term plan to residents that addresses our financial, space and educational issues. We must move from reacting to crises with short-sighted measures to planning for the future. An example of this short-sightedness has been the deterioration of our buildings due to cuts in maintenance over the years. The savings were minimal and it will now be expensive to repair the buildings.

   We can't keep doing business this way. I believe the board should set the long-term goals and work with the superintendent and district administrators to make certain that they are achieved in a timely, cost-efficient manner.

5. Restore community participation and input on decisions affecting financial and education issues concerning the district's future.
I have realized that solutions sometimes come from listening to many different perspectives on an issue. I have found that to be especially true listening to people from different backgrounds and age groups.

CONTRIBUTIONS CANDIDATE CAN MAKE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:
Leader:
I believe my 12 years of management experience will enable me work with other board members to develop a long-term plan to deal with; loss in revenues, lack of space, more stringent academic requirement and increased enrollment.

Personal Stake:
With children currently attending schools in the district I realize we need to provide our children opportunities in art, athletics and music as well as academics to help them develop into well-rounded adults. And as a homeowner I understand the need to balance our desires with our ability to afford them. I feel all of these qualities will make me a valuable asset to the SWR Board of Education.

Respect:
I will bring a respect for others on the board that has been sorely missing in recent years. I will extend the same respect to community members whether they agree with me or not.

Integrity:
My allegiance is to identifying the best solutions for our school district and residents. I have no interest in playing political games.

Commitment to community service:
I believe it is important to put your time and energy into things you believe in. This is why I have volunteered for the budget advisory committee and Wildcat Athletic Club.

I believe in applying hard work to solving problems rather than complaining about them.

I have to be involved with things I care about. I work enthusiastically with others and I am looking forward to working with other board members and residents.

NAME: Joseph D. Carbone
ADDRESS: 3 South Trail
Shoreham, NY
PHONE: 631 744-0716

EDUCATION:
- BOCES - Trade Electricity
- U.S. Air Force - Electronics Technician
- Certified Facilitator of Quality Control & Total Quality Management
- Management Certificate - C.W. Post

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:
- Current SWR School Board Member - Vice President
- SWR School Safety Committee - Board Sub-Committee Member
- SWR Community Programs - Board Sub-Committee Member
- SWR Space Committee - Member
- SWR Football Booster Club - Member of the Board of Directors
- NY Empire State Games, held at SWR - Volunteer
- Community Recreation Baseball - Brookhaven League - Coach
- Community Rec. Night Varsity Baseball Clinics - Supervised
- Father Joe's Flag Football - Coach
- South Manor School Dist. HS Planning/Space Committee - Member
PROFESSIONAL OR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS:
- Facilities Lead Technician - Symbol Technologies (1995-present)
- Helped coordinate construction of 150,000 sq. ft. addition to Symbol Technologies in Holtsville

ENUMERATION OF SPECIFIC PRIORITIES IF ELECTED:
1. Seek to receive the proper state aid for the school district. This includes continuing the progress made with the Legislators during this past year.
2. Provide a long term solution for space needs.
3. Seek to implement a referendum vote by the public to access the repair fund to provide funding, for all of the building repairs in the district. Full repairs, not patchwork.
4. Begin immediate implementation of the technology plan as outlined by the Superintendent.
5. Curriculum alignment throughout the district.
6. Insure that the necessary programs are in place for our students to meet the new state standards, including after school tutoring.
7. Provide support to the Superintendent, in his vision for even higher quality in education in this school district.

CONTRIBUTIONS CANDIDATE CAN MAKE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:
1. Experienced School Board Member, who will provide continuity and stability.
2. Possess a corporate memory of district facts, based on my many years of attendance at board meetings, prior to holding office.
3. Willing to listen to the entire community. My decisions are based on fact and what is in the best interest of the school district.
4. As a trained facilitator I can problem solve, focus, and reach a true consensus. I will continue to develop solutions and take action.
5. I am independent, decisive and honest. I do not have a personal agenda. I am here for ALL the children and the ENTIRE community.

NAME: Wm. Scott Ericson
ADDRESS: 49 Mary Pitkin Path
Shoreham, NY
PHONE: 631 821-2354

EDUCATION:
- State University of New York at Brockport, 1974-75
- State University of New York at Farmingdale, 1976-1977
- Nassau Community College, 1978-1980

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:
- Budget Advisory Committee, SWR 1999-2000
- Budget Advisory Committee, Middle Country School District Chairperson 1997-98
- Budget Advisory Committee, Middle Country School District Member 1996-97
- Missions Committee, United Methodist Church, Setauket
- Vice President of Soundview Acres Homeowners Association

PROFESSIONAL OR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS:
I have held a management position with the U.S. Postal Service for 16 years. From 1985-1993 I was a manager of the Air Mail Facility at JFK Airport. I was promoted to Supervisor in 1985 and I supervised various sections. In 1990, I was promoted to General Supervisor. I managed the Platform, Registry, Eagle Express mail and Priority Network. I was detailed to the Tour Superintendent position, 1991. I managed the entire JFK facility on one of the three shifts being responsible for 400 employees. I transferred to Northport in 1993, for family reasons. I currently supervise employees, create the schedule, meet production goals and work to create a positive atmosphere where people can work together productively.

ENUMERATION OF SPECIFIC PRIORITIES IF ELECTED:
1. Planning for the Future
We must develop and implement plans to house our students, maintain our buildings, meet rising state standards, and provide accurate, understandable financial information to the community. I will not be a board member who looks the other way and ignores these challenges to our fiscal and educational strength. We must meet these challenges head-on and find solutions that the community will support. I will listen to my neighbors. I will work with other board members and the school administration and staff to reach these goals.

2. End division in our community
I don't want the Shoreham-Wading River School Board to continue to be a source of division in our community. I want to end the revolving door in which superintendents and building administrators come and go, in alarming numbers. This is the most visible evidence of the havoc caused by the politics of division. But the unseen damage goes much deeper. Before I moved to Shoreham, I served on the Budget Advisory Committee in my former district, Middle Country. It was there that I saw, firsthand, the damage that can occur when a divided Board of Education loses sight of its responsibilities to the students and the community.

3. Produce a fiscally responsible budget we can all support
My experience on budget advisory committees in two school districts provided me with important insights into how to construct a budget that would take into account our current fiscal constraints. I know how difficult it can be to produce a budget that the entire community will support, but with the right leadership and commitment it can be done. We have to start by involving much more of the community in budget preparation.

Instead of a few sparsely attended evening budget workshops, why not send out a newsletter or survey listing proposed changes? Why not get budget planning information out to the PTO's, seniors such as the Leisure Glenn community, Booster Clubs, etc. Right now, community members receive minimal communications from the school district. They must receive information they can trust and then be given many opportunities to provide input so that the board can present a budget that embraces the community's priorities. When community members see their board members truly listening and working hard throughout the budget process to provide complete and accurate information, followed by presentation of a fair budget, then support will be earned.

4. Solve the State Aid problem
Until Shoreham-Wading River receives state aid in amounts similar to other districts, we will face huge tax increases. LILC/LLPA revenue has dropped from $32 million in 1992 to $32 million for next year, while state aid has remained below $2.5 million for all ten years. You made up the lost revenue by paying much higher taxes.

My 16 years of management experience have taught me that an approach that has failed for many years means that it is time to try a different strategy with our legislative leaders. The changing landscape in the electric power industry could provide us with valuable new legislative allies. We need to begin working with legislators across the state where retirement of aging, inefficient power plants will confront their school districts with many of the same revenue loss problems we now face. This could produce a broad consensus for legislation. I will work to build that consensus.
5. Meet rising academic standards
Study after study shows the importance of a strong educational and disciplinary leadership in a school's performance. We need to establish a climate in which excellent administrators will want to stay here, and outstanding candidates will be attracted to vacant positions.

We have lost six superintendents in six years. This is no way to provide stable leadership. I have a strong personal involvement - my children both attend the Miller Avenue School. They have a long way to go until graduation and the standards get tougher every year. I will use my management experience to produce a positive, mutually respectful relationship between the school board and the school district's administrators while demanding accountability.

CONTRIBUTIONS CANDIDATE CAN MAKE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Efficiency
As a manager, I am goal-oriented. As a board member, I will work to expedite decision-making and keep the focus on the large issues to solve the real problems.

2. Listening to people and involving them
Currently our community is polarized. Many of our board members are not receptive to suggestions and concerns voiced by community residents. People feel shut out of the process. I will encourage much wider participation because I am a good listener, I know that it is sometimes the person you disagree with who comes up with the solution to a problem. The key is to be a strong enough leader to be willing to listen to and learn from all people.

3. Commitment
On three budget advisory committees, I have spent long hours going over school budgets line by line. The work is not glamorous, but it is vitally important.

The budget is the key that unlocks the potential of the school district. Each budget has a history that might be funding a junior varsity team. For another it might be in planning for current and future years that lets them sleep at night. I am committed to doing the hard work to produce a budget the entire community can support. I have done this successfully before and I look forward to this challenge.

Everybody in the community has a stake in coming together and ending the divisions we live now. We can have a bright future and I am committed to using all of my ability to bring us together.

NAME: Marie Hodess

ADDRESS: 3 Locust Circle
Shoreham, NY

PHONE: 631 744-8123

EDUCATION:
• B.A., Communications Arts and Sciences CUNY, Queens College

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:
• Board Member, 1995-2001
• Board President, 2000-2001, 1997-1998
• Lector, St. Mark's Church, Shoreham
• Member, Community In Crisis Steering Committee
• Miller Avenue, PTO
• Member, Superintendent Jackson's Study Group
• Member, Ad-Hoc Political Action Committee
• Member, Parent Liaison Reorganization Committee Middle School
• Member, Agenda Committee For Middle School Parent Liaison
• Member, Advisory Committee, High School Parent Connection
• Member, High School Shared Decision Making Committee
• Representative, High School Cultural Arts Committee

PROFESSIONAL OR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS:
• Film, Television, Stage Actor - Most Recent Credits Include:
  • Melissa, LOVE LETTERS
  Snell Music Theater SUNY Potsdam
  • Martha, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF
  Queens Playhouse in the Park, Flushing, New York
  • Gertrude, HAMLET
  Judith Anderson Theatre, New York, New York
  • Television
  • ANOTHER WORLD - A QUESTION OF HONOR - STRIKE FORCE
  • Film
  • MR. WONDERFUL - ROCKET GIBRALTAR - GODFATHER I, II

ENUMERATION OF SPECIFIC PRIORITIES IF ELECTED:
• Establish the kind of working relationship between the Board of Education and the Superintendent that has been missing for years.
• Continue the active involvement with legislators and the State Education Department to resolve our state aid funding.
• Follow through on the Superintendent's long-range plan to resolve space needs for our students.
• Implement the short-range plan to keep within our class size guidelines, by moving all kindergarten classes to the Briclliff School.
• Strengthen and enrich our curriculum to allow every child to reach his full potential.
• Resolve our legal issues with equity and integrity.
• Put in effect a strategic plan which: contains community analysis - all social and demographic information; connects resources to objectives; is evaluated annually and brings performance up.
• Address the problems with our facilities in an expeditious and cost-effective manner. Short and long range plans need to be produced that show our community the current issues; what course the Board proposes; and what impacts there will be. This is an area that calls out for community movement and improved communications.

CONTRIBUTIONS CANDIDATE CAN MAKE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:
I have lived in Shoreham for over twenty years and have been actively involved in the school district almost as many years. I am familiar with the history of the school district and I understand the complexities of our fiscal crisis.

I bring the knowledge that only the experience of six years membership on the Board can provide. During those six years, I've strived to build strong working relationships with our legislators. I am committed to using those alliances to build coalitions of support for our district and our kids.

I have the insight to know a leader when I see one and the tenacity to face the obstacles as they are thrown before me. In the face of unrelenting attacks, I lead the team that brought new leadership to the helm of our district. I can provide the consistency needed to support this Superintendent and help assure his success here.

In this union negotiation year, I bring the experience of several previously negotiated contracts. I know the right questions to ask; I have the courage to ask those questions. I am willing to go after information needed to make the right decisions and the ability to zero in on whether it is the right thing to do - whether it is in step with the community.

I have the ability to provide leadership and to maintain the focus on our district's educational goals. Lastly, as the revolving door of high paid professionals has continued to swing back and forth, I had the commitment and dedication to stay the course.

I believe it is obvious to anyone watching our district, that the team in place has commenced the task of moving this district forward; of improving the overall performance of all students. As the leader of that team, I am up to the challenge of representing you and our children in such critical matters as sound instruction, fiscal solvency and increased student growth.