



Valuing education...we *shape the future*, today!

Residents to vote on \$44.08 million budget, bus proposition, BOE candidates

Property tax levy cap at allowable limit

Mohonasen Central School District residents will vote May 15 on a proposed \$44,082,355 spending plan for the 2012-13 school year. The proposed plan calls for a \$1.17 million – or 2.75 percent – increase in spending over the current year’s budget.

Voters will also elect three members to the Board of Education, and decide on a bus proposition. (See page 8.)

Under the proposed spending plan, a total of 13.3 full-time equivalent teaching positions, 1.0 administrative position and 4.0 support staff positions would be



eliminated, and class sizes at the elementary level would increase by an average of two students. (See chart page 3.)

If approved, the budget would carry a tax levy increase of 2.278 percent. The tax levy

is the total amount of money a school district can raise through property taxes. Under New York state’s new property tax levy cap law, this increase is at the maximum allowable

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Despite fiscal challenges, Mohonasen stays strong

While fiscal challenges are not new to Mohonasen – the district has cut more than \$7 million from the budget in the last three years due to loss of state aid – officials recognize that the organization must be nimble to preserve what Superintendent Dr. Kathleen A. Spring calls “a hidden gem.”

“We recognize that we must adapt and change as we continue to prepare our students for

the 21st century,” said Spring. The philosophy of making budget reductions across the board, said Spring, allows the district to preserve a greater number and variety of programs, albeit at a reduced level.

“We need to do what we can to keep programs in place so that when the economy does get better, we can build those back up and move forward. We must be resilient in the face of

the many economic challenges we face. Mohonasen is a hidden gem because of our ability to remain strong and creative in spite of these fiscal difficulties.”

Spring said examples of resilience abound at Mohonasen.

“We’re still moving forward. Graduation rates continue to rise. We’re creating new programs, which require us to rethink staffing to provide the

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

At a glance

➤ **PROPOSED BUDGET**
\$44,082,355

➤ **BUDGET INCREASE**
2.75%

➤ **TAX LEVY INCREASE**
2.278%

➤ **ALSO ON THE BALLOT**
Bus purchase proposition & BOE election (see page 8).

➤ **MEET THE CANDIDATES/
BUDGET HEARING**
Monday, May 7, 6 p.m.
HS Farnsworth Tech. Ctr.

➤ **BUDGET VOTE**
Tuesday, May 15
7 a.m. - 9 p.m., HS Gym

➤ **BUDGET CUTS**
\$1.1 million in budget cuts were made for next year. This included eliminating 13.3 teaching, 1.0 support staff and 4.0 administrative positions. [Learn more on page 3](#)



State aid reductions at root of budget cuts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

limit, which means a simple majority (50 percent plus 1 vote) is required to pass the budget.

While final figures regarding assessments are not available until August, based upon last year's numbers Rotterdam homeowners with an average assessment of \$150,000 would

see their taxes increase by about \$53 a year to \$2,384. For Guilderland homeowners with similar assessments, the increase would be \$62 to \$2,783, while Colonie taxpayers in a similarly assessed home would see an \$80 increase per year to \$3,524.

When the budget process started, the district faced a \$1.4 million budget gap and was looking at potentially eliminating up to 27 positions.

However, the district received about \$200,000 more in state aid than was expected under Governor Andrew Cuomo's

'We are thankful for the increase in state aid, but it does not make us whole, and it doesn't mean we won't be faced with a similarly difficult situation a year from now.'

*Dr. Kathleen Spring
Superintendent*

original proposed budget. The Board of Education also approved appropriating \$1.25 million from fund balance – an additional \$250,000 more than last year's appropriation – to decrease the gap.

"Employee benefit expenses actually increased less than our original estimates, allowing us to maintain more positions," said Superintendent Dr. Kathleen A. Spring. In addition, multi-year concessions from the teachers association last year benefit the district not only in 2011-12 but in the 2012-13 year as well.

"The foundation aid we will



receive is the first increase in general state aid that we have gotten in four years. However, given that expenses continue to increase, the district remains in a tenuous position. We are thankful for the increase in aid, but it does not make us whole, and it doesn't mean we won't be faced with a similarly difficult situation a year from now."

APPROACH TO CUTS

District officials began the 2012-13 budget process by holding ongoing administrative

discussions while concurrently gathering feedback from residents on potential budget scenarios. "Feedback from the community was essential as the Board of Education sought to strike the best balance between what this community wants in terms of educational programming and what taxpayers would be willing to support," said Spring.

"Our goal was to keep structures in place and to continue to offer options for students," she said. "As a result, we made reductions across the board rather than completely cutting programs." (For a complete list of cuts, see page 3.)

Board of Education president Dominic Cafarelli noted that the \$7 million in cuts in the last three years complicates future budgets.

"Rising costs associated with employee pensions and benefits as well as unfunded mandates, such as the new teacher evaluation system, continue to present difficult hurdles," said Cafarelli.

State's new law contains changes to 'contingent budget' requirements

Contingency would force additional \$510,880 in cuts

If the proposed budget is defeated by voters on May 15, the Board of Education will have three options: present the same budget to voters a second time; present a revised budget to voters; or, adopt a contingent budget.

If the budget is defeated a second time, the board must adopt a contingent budget. With the new property tax levy cap law in effect, contingent budget requirements have changed. A district can levy a tax no greater than that of the prior budget year – a 0 percent increase. For Mohonasen, that means the district would be required to eliminate an

additional \$510,880 from its proposed 2012-2013 school budget.

"This could mean extreme reductions in programs and services for students," said Superintendent Dr. Kathleen A. Spring. "The district would be forced to look at a scenario where only mandated programs and services remained. For example, this could result in the elimination of music, art or library in grades K-6; reduction of nurses and health office assistants and reduction in length of school day to mandated time (5 hours for elementary, 6 hours for secondary), among other potential reductions.



...we *shape the future*, today!

New tax cap levy law establishes level of voter support needed for budget

New York state's property tax levy "cap" law, established in July 2011, has often been incorrectly referred to as a "2 percent cap" on taxes by some politicians and the media.

The legislation requires each school district in the state to calculate its own tax levy limit through a complicated formula to determine what level of voter support is necessary for budget approval. However, it does not limit the tax levy increase to 2 percent or any other amount. The "2 percent" figure (or the rate of inflation, if less), is just one of eight variables that factor into each district's calculation of its individual tax levy limit as prescribed by law.

The calculated tax levy limit for Mohonasen Central School District is 2.278 percent. This figure is the maximum amount allowed including exclusions that requires a simple majority (50 percent plus 1 vote) for passage of its budget.

"The proposed budget keeps a majority of programs intact while remaining fiscally responsible to the district and our taxpayers," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen A. Spring.

If the district proposed a budget at a level above the maximum allowable property tax levy limit a supermajority vote – or 60 percent – would be required to pass.

"The board chose to present a budget

at the tax levy limit set by the state," said Spring. She noted that school officials have been questioned as to why they did not propose a budget that was above the tax levy limit.

"The board felt strongly based on feedback at community forums that the tax levy limit was what the community could support," she said. "To go out above the limit and fail to obtain the required supermajority would potentially force the district into a contingent budget, which under the new law has very different implications than in the past. It mandates a 0 percent tax levy increase, or \$510,880 in additional cuts. This would be devastating to Mohonasen."

➤ The Approach

Below are some of the strategies officials used when deciding what to cut and what to keep.

- ♦ Look at big picture and make reductions across the board.
- ♦ Maintain structures to build on in the future.
- ♦ Reallocate resources where possible.
- ♦ Rethink and reorganize programs while maintaining effectiveness.
- ♦ Gather feedback from the public through community forums.

➤ Summary of budget changes

Eliminate 13.3 FTE teaching positions:

- * 6.0 Elementary
- * 0.2 Art
- * 0.6 Physical Education
- * 0.8 Technology
- * 0.5 Reading
- * 1.0 Music
- * 1.0 Math
- * 1.0 English
- * 1.2 Science
- * 1.0 Social Studies
- * 0.8 Foreign Language

Eliminate 1.0 FTE administrative positions:

- * 1.0 Assistant Principal/ELA Administrator

Eliminate 2.0 FTE teaching assistant positions

Eliminate support staff positions:

- * 0.5 Transportation office
- * 1.0 Clerical
- * 2-3 bus runs consolidated
- * Restructure 1 custodial position

There will be a restoration of 0.8 positions across the high school to address class size/electives.

Note: All positions are shown as full-time equivalent, or FTE. This means that they are totals and often include full-time positions being reduced to part time; and the partial or full reduction of some part-time positions.

➤ Projected Average Class Size for 2012-13

| Grade | Current Enrollment | Projected Enrollment | Current Sections/ # of students | Projected Sections/ # of students* |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| K | 184 | 180 | 9/20.4 | 8/22.5 |
| 1 | 167 | 184 | 8/20.8 | 8/23.0 |
| 2 | 193 | 167 | 8/24.1 | 7/23.9 |
| 3 | 212 | 193 | 9/23.5 | 8/24.1 |
| 4 | 199 | 212 | 8/24.9 | 8/26.5 |
| 5 | 210 | 199 | 9/23.3 | 8/24.9 |
| 6 | 238 | 210 | 10/23.8 | 8/26.5 |

*Secondary class sizes will vary depending on the grade and course. While no subject areas have been completely eliminated, there may be fewer sections of some courses offered and an increase in class size.

Historical perspective

Tax rates

| Town | 2008-'09* | 2011-'12* | \$ increase/ decrease | % increase/ decrease |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rotterdam | \$14.6401 | \$15.5439 | \$0.91 | 6.2% |
| Guilderland | \$18.2000 | \$18.0368 | -\$0.16 | -0.9% |
| Colonie | \$23.9962 | \$23.0314 | -\$0.90 | -4.0% |

*per 1,000 of assessed value

▣ The three-part budget

All public schools in New York state are required to report appropriations in three categories: administrative, program and capital. The following data shows how Mohonasen's budget breaks down under this formula:

THE PROGRAM BUDGET INCLUDES: The salaries and benefits of all teachers, guidance counselors, aides, monitors, psychologists, nurses, social workers and speech therapists.

Also included is in-service training; library costs; transportation; co-curricular programs; and interscholastic athletics.

- ◆ Program Budget 2012-13: \$32,028,554
- ◆ Program Budget 2011-12: \$30,958,228

THE CAPITAL BUDGET INCLUDES: Debt service on buildings; bus purchases; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs; and operations and maintenance costs including custodial staff.

- ◆ Capital Budget 2012-13: \$6,954,161
- ◆ Capital Budget 2011-12: \$6,944,326

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET INCLUDES: The salaries and benefits of all professional members who spend 50 percent or more of their time in administration and supervision. Also included are: clerical staff; public information; curriculum development and supervision; research, planning and evaluation; legal services; and school board-related costs.

- ◆ Administration Budget 2012-13: \$5,099,640
- ◆ Administration Budget 2011-12: \$5,002,007

▣ Appropriations Summary

| | 2011-12 Budget | 2012-13 Proposed | Dollar Increase/ Decrease |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Instruction | \$22,302,982 | \$23,081,434 | \$778,452 |
| Employee Benefits | 10,242,991 | 10,689,907 | 446,916 |
| Operations & Maintenance | 2,363,879 | 2,310,888 | -52,991 |
| Transportation | 2,121,178 | 2,089,245 | -31,933 |
| District Support | 1,785,569 | 1,797,585 | 12,016 |
| Debt Service | 4,087,962 | 4,113,296 | 25,334 |

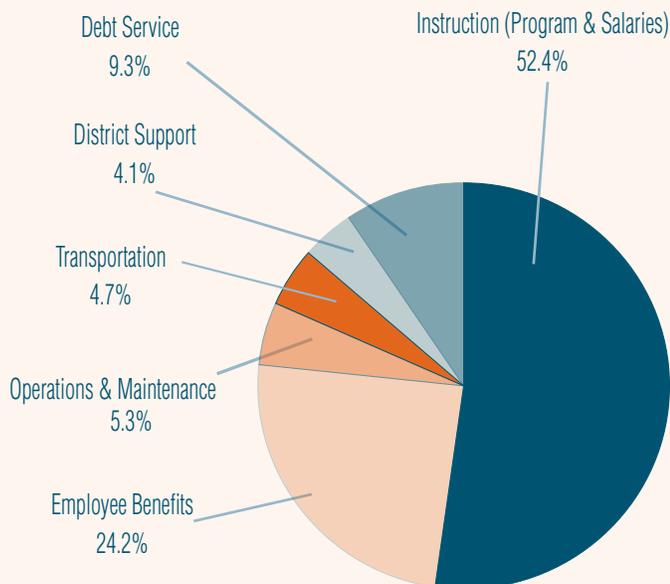
Total **\$42,904,561** **\$44,082,355** **\$1,177,794**

▣ Revenue Summary

| | 2011-12 Budget | 2012-13 Proposed | Dollar Increase/ Decrease |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| State Aid | \$17,344,259 | \$17,911,098 | \$566,839 |
| *Property Tax Levy | 22,427,627 | 22,938,507 | 510,880 |
| Fund Balance Appropriation | 1,000,000 | 1,250,000 | 250,000 |
| Reserve Appropriation | 800,000 | 800,000 | 0 |
| BOCES Rental/Svcs. | 365,500 | 365,500 | 0 |
| Interfund Transfer | 653,000 | 533,000 | -120,000 |
| Other Revenue | 314,175 | 284,250 | -29,925 |

Total **\$42,904,561** **\$44,082,355** **\$1,177,794**

Proposed Budget Appropriations



* A portion of the tax levy will be paid by the state under the School Tax Relief (STAR) program.

A report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value on the final assessment roll or rolls used in the budgetary process is exempt from taxation, is included with the budget document, which is available in the district's business office at 2072 Curry Road, Schenectady NY 12303.



...we *shape the future*, today!

▣ A line-by-line look at proposed budget appropriations

Instruction (Program & Salaries)

| | Budget 2011-12 | Proposed 2012-13 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 52.4% of budget | | |
| Teaching/Reg. School | \$13,033,649 | \$13,321,531 |
| Special Education | 3,508,784 | 3,720,518 |
| Curriculum Development | 175,189 | 182,057 |
| Supervision of Schools | 1,566,635 | 1,594,870 |
| Regional Planning/BOCES | 121,350 | 125,000 |
| In-Service Training/BOCES | 41,000 | 42,640 |
| BOCES Occupational Ed. | 636,976 | 655,000 |
| Summer School | 112,942 | 103,125 |
| Attendance | 47,794 | 49,228 |
| Adult Education | 65,061 | 69,049 |
| Library/Media | 399,941 | 413,847 |
| Computer Asst. Instruction | 548,624 | 634,047 |
| Guidance | 610,684 | 745,721 |
| Health Services | 309,404 | 315,028 |
| Diagnostic Testing | 45,132 | 46,367 |
| Psychological Services | 172,526 | 177,466 |
| Social Work Services | 218,745 | 228,308 |
| Co-Curricular | 200,195 | 202,462 |
| Athletics | 423,351 | 390,170 |
| Transfers to funds | 65,000 | 65,000 |
| Total | \$22,302,982 | \$23,081,434 |

Employee Benefits

| | Budget 2011-12 | Proposed 2012-13 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 24.2% of budget | | |
| Health Insurance | \$5,070,000 | \$5,090,000 |
| Teachers' Retirement | 1,900,000 | 2,125,000 |
| Employees' Retirement | 750,000 | 960,000 |
| Social Security (FICA) | 1,755,389 | 1,774,157 |
| Workmen's Comp. | 294,852 | 313,000 |
| Unemployment | 350,000 | 300,000 |
| Life Insurance | 90,000 | 80,000 |
| Disability | 8,500 | 8,500 |
| Employee Asst. Program | 9,250 | 9,250 |
| Other Post Employee Benefits | 15,000 | 30,000 |
| Total | \$10,242,991 | \$10,689,907 |

**The total proposed 2012-2013
Mohonasen budget is
\$44,082,355**

Operations & Maintenance

| | Budget 2011-12 | Proposed 2012-13 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5.3% of budget | | |
| Custodial Services | \$1,922,873 | \$1,934,993 |
| Maintenance | 441,006 | 375,895 |
| Total | \$2,363,879 | \$2,310,888 |

Transportation

| | Budget 2011-12 | Proposed 2012-13 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4.7% of budget | | |
| Transportation | \$2,094,828 | \$2,061,945 |
| Garage | 26,350 | 27,300 |
| Total | \$2,121,178 | \$2,089,245 |

District Support

| | Budget 2011-12 | Proposed 2012-13 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4.1% of budget | | |
| Board of Education | \$25,872 | \$23,835 |
| District Meeting | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| Central Administration | 238,721 | 243,707 |
| Business Admin./Finance | 494,742 | 491,890 |
| Auditing | 32,921 | 32,961 |
| Tax Collection | 5,500 | 5,250 |
| Fiscal Agent Fees | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Legal Services | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Public Information | 202,900 | 201,900 |
| Central Printing | 40,330 | 41,426 |
| Data Processing | 134,000 | 149,500 |
| Liability/Prop. Insurance | 167,925 | 167,925 |
| School Association Dues | 3,000 | 2,500 |
| Property Assessment | 25,000 | 22,000 |
| BOCES Administration | 297,500 | 297,500 |
| Unclassified/Other | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Community Census | 2,658 | 2,691 |
| Refund Real Property Tax | 0 | 0 |
| Total | \$1,785,569 | \$1,797,585 |

Debt Service

| | Budget 2011-12 | Proposed 2012-13 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.3% of budget | | |
| Serial Bonds | \$3,770,618 | \$3,809,431 |
| Bus Bonds | 317,344 | 303,865 |
| Total | \$4,087,962 | \$4,113,296 |

➤ District stays strong despite fiscal challenges

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

most efficient model possible,” said Spring. “We should be proud of where this district is in spite of the economic challenges we face.”

SIGNS OF STRENGTH

Spring cited several areas in which Mohonasen shows its strength:

Graduation rates continue to rise. In the last three years, overall graduation rates at Mohonasen have increased from 78 to 82 percent, and the district is projecting that figure will increase to 85 percent in 2011-12. Among economically disadvantaged students, the rate has increased from 64 to 76 percent in those same three years, and it is projected to rise to 80 percent this year.

Mohonasen is capitalizing on connections. Through the new Mo-Tech program and partnerships with area colleges, officials are connecting Regents-level academics with in-depth, real-world experience in several different areas. The district’s criminal justice program continues to attract juniors and seniors who are interested in learning more about related careers. Next year, in partnership with BOCES and Schenectady County Community College, the district will introduce an innovative new machining program designed to provide students skills to work in local manufacturing jobs or related fields. This satellite BOCES program housed in a high school will be the first of its kind in New York state. Other programs in various stages of development include media arts, technology and trades, and entrepreneurialism.

Mohonasen is moving forward academically. Teachers across the district have worked to incorporate the Common Core standards into curriculum maps and unit plans. This process is helping Mohonasen get a head start on the statewide effort to align New York state

Responsible planning is key to district’s future

District officials are continually looking for ways to be fiscally prudent in challenging economic times.

“We have a responsibility to the community and to our students to make forward-thinking decisions, because they will affect the future fiscal stability of our school district,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen A. Spring.

A series of decisions in the last several years are saving money and making the district more efficient, said Spring, including:

- Proactive measures that contributed to Mohonasen’s low per-pupil expenditure – the 7th lowest in the state at \$13,124, according to New York State Education Department figures for 2009-10. The state average for that timeframe is \$19,085, and Mohonasen’s figure is the lowest in the region. Among the measures that affected this rate: health insurance cost containment; not filling vacant positions unless absolutely necessary; and, sharing and consolidating resources/services with BOCES, other school districts and the town.
- The district has implemented several cost containment measures in recent years, including purchasing supplies with other districts and purchasing technology

through BOCES. In addition, the district has saved nearly \$2.2 million in energy costs over the last six years through its Energy Education program.

- Officials expect rerouting buses in the 2012-13 school year will save the district between \$60,000 to \$70,000. The transportation department transports 3,200 public and non-public school students through the district covering 10 square miles, with 62 vehicles traveling 500,000 miles per year.
- The district seeks grant funds when possible. (See story, page 7.)
- Previous concessions, including a partial pay freeze, by Mohonasen’s four bargaining units saved the district more than \$525,000 for the current school year. The move allowed officials to restore eight positions that would have been eliminated. Similarly, work with APPR, the new teacher evaluation system, enabled the district to apply for a performance grant that could equal \$600,000 per year for three years. (The district expects a response to the performance grant application in late July or early August.)

“This kind of cooperative spirit is indicative of the people who work for this district,” said Spring.

curriculum with national standards.

Students are successful beyond the classroom. Programs such as Mohonasen’s acclaimed music program and marching band, Mohon Masque, the school’s theater program, technology competitions and the district’s athletic teams celebrate students’ unique gifts. These programs help provide a well-rounded education for Mohonasen students.

Mohonasen is focused on citizenship. The district continues to focus on

character development and anti-bullying initiatives. Programs such as the Peaceful Bus at Bradt Elementary School and Character Counts at Pinewood Intermediate School, Make-A-Difference Day at Draper Middle School as well as guest speakers and an anti-bullying day at the high school, raise awareness and promote citizenship among students. “Programs such as these will facilitate a smooth integration of the Dignity for All Students Act as it becomes law in July 2012,” said Spring.



...we *shape the future*, today!

Proposed 2012-2013 Budget

Questions & Answers

Q. WHAT WILL THE NEW PROPERTY TAX LEVY LAW MEAN FOR MY TAX BILL?

A. Residents' individual tax bills are determined by tax rates, which are based on the tax levy, and several factors beyond the district's control. These include assessment levels and equalization rates, as well as individual property owners' exemptions, such as the state's STAR program. The district sets final tax rates each summer after each town finalizes its assessment rolls.

Q. WHAT TAX EXEMPTIONS CAN MOHONASEN RESIDENTS RECEIVE?

A. The New York State School Tax Relief (STAR) program allows property owners to exempt a certain amount of the assessed value of their property, and thus lowers their school tax bill. There are two levels of STAR: Basic STAR applies to all owner-occupied, primary residences and Enhanced STAR is for senior citizens whose income does not exceed a set limit.

The district has no control over the STAR program and does not estimate tax impacts based on STAR savings.

Starting with the 2011-12 school district budget, the state legislature established a cap on increases in STAR savings. For next year, increases in STAR savings are capped at 2 percent of the prior year savings.

For information on the STAR program, visit www.orps.state.ny.us or call your local assessor's office.

Mohonasen also offers a Real Property Tax Exemption. Residents over the age of 65 and qualifying residents of any age with disabilities who have an annual income of \$35,400 or less can be exempted from paying taxes on 5 to 50 percent of their home's value – thus reducing their school tax bills. Applications for these exemptions must be filed with your town assessor's office and must be renewed annually.

Q. HOW DO STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES AFFECT THE SCHOOL BUDGET?

A. State and federal mandates generally are intended to raise educational standards. The costs associated with meeting such mandates – for things such as administering and grading state tests and providing struggling students with individualized/small group support – are often not fully covered by the government. For more on state mandates, see budget information on the district website at www.mohonasen.org.

Q. WHY DO OFFICIALS IN LOWER-WEALTH DISTRICTS CALL THE STATE FUNDING FORMULA UNFAIR?

A. The Foundation Aid formula was originally designed to allocate state aid funds based on a district's need, but modifications to the formula have led to results that often shortchange poorer school districts. Communities that rely heavily on state aid are often unable to shoulder the additional tax burden that results from aid freezes and cuts, leading to the claim that the formula is unfair. Approximately 50 percent of Mohonasen's budget is funded by state aid, so a cut in state aid means a larger portion of the overall budget is affected than in a district that has, say, 25 percent of its budget funded by state aid. The Board of Education continues to discuss the need to change the way schools are funded by meeting with legislators throughout the year.

Members of the Mohonasen community who would like to contact their elected leaders to voice their opinions on public school funding and mandate relief can find information on the district website (<http://www.mohonasen.org/budget/electedleaders.cfm>).

Mohonasen applies for grants with neighboring districts

Mohonasen recently partnered with the Schalmont and Duanesburg school districts to apply for a state government efficiency grant.

If awarded, the grant would fund a feasibility study to look at a broad range of opportunities for cost savings, from a full merger to shared services such as transportation, special education and administration.

No decisions about shared services or consolidation have been made. The study will help district officials better understand the pros and cons – as well as the potential cost savings, if any – of merging, consolidating or sharing certain district functions. If the study shows that a merger would be a wise option, a more consolidation-specific study would be pursued.

The districts are requesting \$40,000 in grant funding and agreed to split the 10 percent local share required for the grant. The application was submitted in March, and awards are expected to be announced in August.

Mohonasen also applied for a grant to study business-related functions and activities that could be shared in whole, or in part, across the seven Schenectady County school districts. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

See more Questions & Answers
online at www.mohonasen.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dominic Cafarelli, *President*
Gary Spadaro, *Vice President*
Tom Andriola
Nancy del Prado
Eileen French
Mark Moran
Mark Sabatini

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kathleen Spring

EDITOR

Karen Nerney

*Produced in cooperation with the
Capital Region BOCES Communications
Service.*

Mohonasen

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2072 Curry Road
Schenectady, NY 12303

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 860
Albany, NY

POSTAL CUSTOMER

➤ Board candidates featured in future brochure *and* online

Three of seven seats on Mohonasen's Board of Education are up for election on May 15. The board candidates will be listed in a budget brochure, which will be mailed out after the budget hearing on May 7. You can find the full board candidate biographies online at www.mohonasen.org.

Learn more about the board candidates and the budget at 6p.m. on Monday, May 7, in the Mohonasen High School Farnsworth Technology Center (LGI).

➤ Replacement of school buses

On May 15, Mohonasen residents will be asked to vote on a proposition to purchase two full-size 66-passenger buses and one 24-passenger wheelchair bus at a total cost of \$290,000. Of this amount, 73.6 percent (\$213,440) would be reimbursed through state aid, leaving the district responsible to pay for \$76,560 or approximately \$15,312 a year for five years.

The purchase of these vehicles would have no impact on next year's budget, and since the district is always retiring debt, the new purchase would result in a minimal increase on that debt.

Mohonasen has been following a regular bus replacement schedule based on mileage, age of vehicles, repair history and condition.

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, May 15

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. in the Mohonasen High School gym (use the pool entrance).

Voter eligibility

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years old or older and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots are available to residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person because of illness or disability. Ballots are available in the district office at 2072 Curry Road. Call 356-8210 for more information or if you would like a ballot mailed to you. To download an absentee ballot application, visit www.mohonasen.org.

For more information

For more information about the 2012-13 proposed budget, go to www.mohonasen.org/budget or call 356-8210. A copy of the complete budget proposal is available in the district office at 2070 Curry Road, Schenectady NY 12303.