



It's About Learning

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from Tracy Wrend, Superintendent

With Town Meeting Day approaching, we are pleased to provide you with the winter edition of *It's About Learning*, which includes information on the school budget requests that communities will consider on March 3. In this edition, you will find two-page summaries of budget information for Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe, including information on the impact of Acts 68 and 82 on the tax request in each town.

Throughout the budget development process, school boards have grappled with difficult choices to arrive at the proposed budgets. The Stowe and Morristown School Districts have each made program reductions of roughly \$250,000 for the upcoming school year. The budget for the Elmore School District continues to capitalize on the efficient operations of the Elmore School and a close partnership with the Morristown School District which contribute to an education spending per equalized pupil that will likely continue to be among the very lowest in the state. Each board was diligent in ensuring that districts' budgets were well crafted to balance both the continuing educational needs of students as well as the fiscal realities of our citizens in these challenging economic times.

Despite the gloomy economic forecast, there is reason to be hopeful. The budgets before each community can provide stability for our children during this period of uncertainty and while state and national dialogues about education and the economy unfold. These dialogues have already begun to open doors to possibilities for change that could support both our obligation to provide quality educational programs for the children of Vermont and new solutions to address affordability. The Boards of Directors of Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe look forward to the opportunity to engage in collaborative processes that may transform education in Vermont, not only in the area of education funding, but also with the recognition that the education of today must prepare our children for a very different tomorrow.

We hope that you find the information in this newsletter helpful and we encourage your attendance at public information sessions. Please see page eight (8) for the schedule of these meetings.



Elmore School District

FY10 Budget Development

Tax Rate Worksheet

	<u>LINE</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>FORMULA</u>
1)	Budgeted Expenditures	\$1,702,100	\$1,741,300	
2)	Budgeted Available Revenues	\$430,400	\$431,200	
3)	Capital Debt Service Aid	\$0	\$0	
4)	Education Spending	\$1,271,700	\$1,310,100	= Line 1 – Line 2 – Line 3
5)	Equalized Pupils	137.87	133.04	
6)	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$9,224	\$9,847	= Line 4 / Line 5
7)	Base Amount	\$8,210	\$8,544	
8)	District Spending Adjustment	112.35%	115.26%	= Line 6 / Line 7 (minimum of 100%)
9)	Statewide Homestead Tax Rate	\$0.87	\$0.85	
10)	Adjusted Equalized Tax Rate	\$0.9774	\$0.9797	= Line 9 x Line 8
11)	Common Level of Appraisal	93.81%	86.19%	
12)	Local Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.0419	\$1.1366	= Line 10 / Line 11
13)	Statewide Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.36	\$1.34	
14)	Local Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.4497	\$1.5547	= Line 13 / Line 11
15)	Income Sensitivity Statewide Percent	1.80%	1.80%	
16)	Local Percent for Income Sensitivity	2.02%	2.07%	= Line 15 x Line 8

Elmore School District

FY10 Budget Development Highlights

Act 82 Information

The Vermont legislature enacted Act 82 as a cost containment initiative in 2007. The statute establishes two criteria to determine if a school district must present its budget in two votes. The school district must meet both criteria in order to implement the Act 82 requirements. The criteria are:

- Is the education spending per equalized pupil for the current school year greater than the statewide average? **No.**
 - Statewide current education spending per equalized pupil is \$11,599.
 - Elmore's current year education spending per equalized pupil is \$9,224.
 - **Elmore's education spending per equalized pupil is \$2,375 less than the statewide average.**
- Is the proposed education spending for the upcoming school year greater than the "Maximum Inflation Amount" or MIA allowed by Act 82? **No.**
 - Elmore's "MIA" allowed under Act 82 for next year is \$1,334,080.
 - Elmore's proposed education spending for next year is \$1,310,100.
 - **Elmore's proposed education spending is \$23,980 less than the inflationary amount allowed under Act 82.**
- Therefore, Elmore School District is **not** subject to the two vote provision of Act 82.

General Information

- The Elmore School District's overall budget growth is \$39,200, a 2.30% growth in the budget.
- The cost of tuitioning students to other school districts has increased by \$5,225. Students in grades 1, 2 and some students in grade 3 will attend the Elmore School next year. Kindergarten students and some students in grade 3 as well as all students in grades 4, 5, and 6 attend school in Morristown. Students in grades 7 through 12 may choose, within legal guidelines, the school they wish to attend. The vast majority of students and their families select Peoples Academy Middle Level, Stowe Middle School, Peoples Academy High School, and Stowe High School.
- Approximately 25% or \$443,225 of Elmore's budget for FY10 is designated to meet the needs of students that qualify for special education. This is an increase of \$11,850 and accounts for approximately 30% of Elmore's overall budget increase. Please note that the Elmore School District anticipates receiving \$256,300 in state funding to offset 58% of these costs.
- The Elmore School District's fund balance as of June 30, 2008 was \$194,983. Of this amount, \$100,000 was authorized by the voters as carry forward for the current FY09 budget and \$95,000 is being proposed as carry forward in the FY10 budget.

Tax Information

- The FY10 homestead education tax rate for the Elmore School District is based on a district spending adjustment of 115.26% as defined by Act 68 (See line 8 on the previous page). The adjusted equalized tax rate for the upcoming year is \$0.9797, which is a two-tenths of a cent increase in the adjusted equalized education tax rate from the current year.
- The FY09 district spending adjustment for Elmore was 112.35% or 255th out of 274 Vermont school districts, placing Elmore's district spending adjustment in the lowest 7% of districts statewide. In FY10, the district spending adjustment is proposed to increase from 112.35% to 115.26%.

Morristown School District FY10 Budget Development Tax Rate Worksheet

	<u>LINE</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010 Proposed</u>	<u>FORMULA</u>
1)	Budgeted Expenditures	\$12,150,850	\$12,246,400	
2)	Budgeted Available Revenues	\$3,860,500	\$3,956,700	
3)	Capital Debt Service Aid	\$0	\$0	
4)	Education Spending	\$8,290,350	\$8,289,700	= Line 1 - Line 2 - Line 3
5)	Equalized Pupils	845.77	825.95	
6)	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$9,802	\$10,037	= Line 4 / Line 5
7)	Base Amount	\$8,210	\$8,544	
8)	District Spending Adjustment	119.39%	117.47%	= Line 6 / Line 7 (minimum of 100%)
9)	Statewide Homestead Tax Rate	\$0.87	\$0.85	
10)	Adjusted Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.0387	\$0.9985	= Line 9 x Line 8
11)	Common Level of Appraisal	100.64%	96.73%	
12)	Local Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.0321	\$1.0322	= Line 10 / Line 11
13)	Statewide Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.36	\$1.34	
14)	Local Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.3514	\$1.3853	= Line 13 / Line 11
15)	Income Sensitivity Statewide Percent	1.80%	1.80%	
16)	Local Percent for Income Sensitivity	2.15%	2.11%	= Line 15 x Line 8

Morristown School District

FY10 Budget Development Highlights

Act 82 Information

The Vermont legislature enacted Act 82 as a cost containment initiative in 2007. The statute establishes two criteria to determine if a school district must present its budget in two votes. The school district must meet both criteria in order to implement the Act 82 requirements. The criteria are:

- Is the education spending per equalized pupil for the current school year greater than the statewide average? **No.**
 - Statewide current education spending per equalized pupil is \$11,599.
 - Morristown's current year education spending per equalized pupil is \$9,802.
 - **Morristown's education spending per equalized pupil is \$1,797 less than the statewide average.**
- Is the proposed education spending for the upcoming school year greater than the "Maximum Inflation Amount" or MIA allowed by Act 82? **No.**
 - Morristown's "MIA" allowed under Act 82 for next year is \$8,672,831.
 - Morristown's proposed education spending for next year is \$8,289,700.
 - **Morristown's proposed education spending is \$383,131 less than the inflationary amount allowed under Act 82.**
- Therefore, the Morristown School District is **not** subject to the two vote provision of Act 82.

General Information

- The Morristown School District's overall budget growth is \$95,550, a 0.8% growth in the budget. Increases in revenues of \$96,200 offset all of the budget increase.
- Special education costs represent 20% of the proposed Morristown School District budget or \$2,457,175. The \$2,457,175 is partially offset by anticipated funding revenues of \$1,297,000 or 53% of the budgeted expenditures.
- The proposed FY10 Morristown School District budget includes the elimination of the school resource officer, the literacy teacher leader position, a receptionist position, and reductions in physical education, music, and planning room staff. Additionally, approximately \$20,000 of building maintenance is being deferred.
- The Morristown School District's fund balance as of June 30, 2008 was \$1,328,457. Of this amount, \$500,000 was authorized by the voters as carry forward for the current FY09 budget and \$590,000 is being proposed as carry forward in the FY10 budget. This leaves \$238,457 or 1.9% of the proposed FY10 budget in the reserve fund and available to defray taxes or to defer expenses in future budgets.

Tax Information

- The FY10 homestead education tax rate for the Morristown School District is based on a district spending adjustment of 117.47% as defined by Act 68 (see line 8 on the previous page). The adjusted equalized tax rate for the upcoming year is \$0.9985, or 4.02 cents lower than the current adjusted equalized education tax rate.
- The FY09 district spending adjustment for Morristown was 119.39% or 244th out of 274 Vermont school districts, placing Morristown's district spending adjustment in the lowest 11% of districts statewide. In FY10, the district spending adjustment is proposed to decrease from 119.39% to 117.47%.

Stowe School District FY10 Budget Development Tax Rate Worksheet

	<u>LINE</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010 Proposed</u>	<u>FORMULA</u>
1)	Budgeted Expenditures	\$9,110,050	\$9,557,225	
2)	Budgeted Available Revenues	\$1,289,750	\$1,429,550	
3)	Capital Debt Service Aid	\$29,249	\$22,500	
4)	Education Spending	\$7,791,051	\$8,105,175	= Line 1 - Line 2 - Line 3
5)	Equalized Pupils	622.98	627.50	
6)	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$12,506	\$12,917	= Line 4 / Line 5
7)	Base Amount	\$8,210	\$8,544	
8)	District Spending Adjustment	152.33%	151.18%	= Line 6 / Line 7 (minimum of 100%)
9)	Statewide Homestead Tax Rate	\$0.87	\$0.85	
10)	Adjusted Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.3253	\$1.2850	= Line 9 x Line 8
11)	Common Level of Appraisal	89.13%	82.24%	
12)	Local Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.4869	\$1.5625	= Line 10 / Line 11
13)	Statewide Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.36	\$1.34	
14)	Local Non-Homestead Tax Rate	\$1.5259	\$1.6294	= Line 13 / Line 11
15)	Income Sensitivity Statewide Percent	1.80%	1.80%	
16)	Local Percent for Income Sensitivity	2.74%	2.72%	= Line 15 x Line 8

Stowe School District

FY10 Budget Development Highlights

Act 82 Information

The Vermont legislature enacted Act 82 as a cost containment initiative in 2007. The statute establishes two criteria to determine if a school district must present its budget in two votes. The school district must meet both criteria in order to implement the Act 82 requirements. The criteria are:

- Is the education spending per equalized pupil for the current school year greater than the statewide average? **Yes.**
 - Statewide current education spending per equalized pupil is \$11,599.
 - Stowe's current year education spending per equalized pupil is \$12,506.
 - **Stowe's education spending per equalized pupil is \$907 more than the statewide average.**
- Is the proposed education spending for the upcoming school year greater than the "Maximum Inflation Amount" or MIA allowed by Act 82? **No.**
 - Stowe's "MIA" allowed under Act 82 for next year is \$8,131,372.
 - Stowe's proposed education spending for next year is \$8,105,175.
 - **Stowe's proposed education spending is \$26,197 less than the inflationary amount allowed under Act 82.**
- Therefore, the Stowe School District is **not** subject to the two vote provision of Act 82.

General Information

- The Stowe School District's overall budget growth is \$447,175, a 4.91% increase in the budget.
- Special education costs of \$1,407,425 represent 15% of the overall budget. Please note that revenues of \$714,600 offset approximately 51% of these costs.
- The proposed FY10 Stowe School District budget includes the elimination of the Chinese program, the Technology Integration Specialist position, an elementary library aide position, and reductions in the French and Strategies for College programs. The proposed budget level funds supplies and materials for the seventh consecutive year.
- Long-term debt is approximately 3% of the proposed FY09 budget. Long-term debt addresses both the principal and interest costs from the 1991-92 construction and renovation project as well as the principal (1st year in budget) and interest expense from the 2007-09 renovation work. The \$360,000 of expense is an increase of \$100,075 and is partially offset by \$22,500 of capital debt service aid.
- The Stowe School District's fund balance as of June 30, 2008 was \$850,777. Of this amount, \$350,000 was authorized by the voters as carry forward for the current FY09 budget and \$400,000 is being proposed as carry forward in the FY10 budget. This leaves \$100,777 or 1.1% of the proposed FY10 budget in the reserve fund and available to defray taxes or to defer expenses in future budgets.

Tax Information

- The FY10 homestead education tax rate for the Stowe School District is based on a district spending adjustment of 151.18% as defined by Act 68 (see line 8 on the previous page). The adjusted equalized tax rate for the upcoming year is \$1.2850, or 4.03 cents lower than the adjusted equalized education tax rate for the current year.
- The FY09 district spending adjustment for Stowe is 152.33% or 94th out of 274 Vermont school districts. Thirty-four percent of school districts in Vermont had a greater district spending adjustment than Stowe. In FY10, the district spending adjustment is proposed to decrease from 152.33% to 151.18%.

Public Information Meeting Schedule

The Elmore, Morristown and Stowe School Boards will hold public information meetings to present and discuss their proposed 2009-2010 school year budgets. The schedule for those meetings as well as polling information is as follows:

ELMORE

Public Information Meeting: Monday,
February 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Elmore
Town Hall

Polling: Elmore Town Meeting, Tuesday,
March 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the
Elmore Town Hall

MORRISTOWN

Public Information Meeting: Tuesday,
February 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the
Morristown Elementary School Library
(joint meeting with the Morristown
Select Board)

Polling: Australian Ballot at the Morristown
Town Offices, Portland Street, on
Tuesday, March 3, from 8:00 a.m. to
7:00 p.m.

STOWE

Public Information Meeting: Monday,
February 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Stowe
High School Auditorium (joint meeting
with the Stowe Select Board)

Polling: Australian Ballot at Stowe Middle
School, Barrows Road, on Tuesday,
March 3, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE

All children and youth (ages 0-21) who are residents of Elmore, Morristown, or Stowe are eligible to receive an appropriate education at public expense, regardless of any disabilities they have. It is possible that the Lamoille South Supervisory Union may not be aware of all resident children and youth with disabilities. If you know a pre-school aged child (birth-5) who may be delayed developmentally or a school-aged child who may have a disability and may be eligible for special education services and who is not in school or otherwise being educated at public expense, please notify the Lamoille South Supervisory Union by calling or writing to Karen Weeks, Director of Student Services, Lamoille South Supervisory Union, P. O. Box 340, Morrisville, VT, 05661, (888-4541).

Students with a disability who live in one of the towns listed above and who attend an approved private school or who attend an approved private school in one of the towns listed above may be eligible for limited special education services. Contact Karen Weeks for more information.

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Lamoille South
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Serving
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