



## *East Greenbush Central School District*

### ADMINISTRATION CENTER

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**Angela M. Nagle, Ph.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

TO: The School Community  
FROM: Angela M. Nagle, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: February 1, 2012  
RE: **2012-2013 Budget Process**

School districts from around the state are in the process of preparing their 2012-2013 budgets. Similar to the past, this is a difficult and challenging process in light of diminishing federal and state resources, increases in health care and pension costs, and adhering to the District's contractual commitments for salaries and other expenses.

Our current year budget is \$84,730,093 and our preliminary estimate is \$86,302,209 for next year. We anticipate our budget funding "gap" is approximately \$3 million due to:

- Loss of \$1.2 million in federal grant funds under the expiring EdJobs Program
- Increases in health care premiums ranging from 7% to 10%
- Increases in support staff pension rates ranging from 17.6% to 18.8%
- Increases in teacher and administrator pension rates approximating 6.6%
- Contractual commitments for salaries

An additional challenge for us this year will be implementing the provisions of the new property tax cap law. School districts with defeated budgets cannot raise the tax levy by even one dollar and those with passed budgets are generally limited to two percent threshold. For East Greenbush Schools, 2% on the tax levy represents approximately \$980,000.

Recently on behalf of the Board of Education, I asked each of you for suggestions to save money in the upcoming budget. Many worthwhile suggestions were received and have been given strong consideration for implementation. However, the recommendations did not typically involve salary and benefit expenses, which make up 73.5% of the District's budget and account for over one-half of the budget funding "gap" noted above.

I invite you to be part of the upcoming budget development process. Many of you recently participated in the World Café community dialogues and the Board of Education is reviewing your suggestions. Budget meetings of the Board of Education are currently scheduled for March 5, 12, 21 and April 4 in the Genet auditorium at 7:30 p.m. As always, your comments and questions are welcome. Please continue to send me your questions and comments. Despite these difficult times in education, I thank you for your ongoing commitment to student achievement and success.