



Fulton School budget passes, few in CNY fail

By Carson Metcalf

Last Tuesday, roughly 1200 Fulton residents came out to vote on the proposed 2011-12 District budget. The vote was relatively a very tight one, showing just how rigid public opinion was on the proposal of enormous cuts, which are now set to take effect in the fall. Our budget was one of the dozens, an overall majority in the region, that voters approved this week. Only a select few Districts in Central New York had failed budgets.

The budget that was voted through for operations next year in our District will now effectively remove one member from each of the core departments of math, science, social studies, and English here at the high school. Also, beginning next year, the Advisory program will be eliminated to save money. Other effects that will be felt District-wide are the cutting of many thousands of dollars from the athletic and technology departments.

When speaking to students around G. Ray Bodley in March once this proposal - that is now the adopted spending plan for next year - came out, opinions were mainly negative. Now that this budget has become reality, this has not significantly changed.

In terms of the vote itself, the budget passed by a mere fifty votes, 623 to 573. This is about a 52% to 48% margin, certainly not a significant landslide win by any means.

On top of the main spending portion, voters were also asked to choose four of the several candidates running for a position on the Board of Education. Voters selected David Cordone, Barbara Hubbard, Fred Cavalier, and David Carvey. This vote was close as well in terms of the small gap between fourth and fifth place in the votes. David Carvey led for the fourth Board seat with only five votes more than Teresa Loetterle, which led to a recount of all the Board ballots.

There was also one more element to our budget that voters were asked to decide - whether or not to allow the purchase of two new District vehicles. This element was successful as well.

Fulton was one of the many School Districts that passed their budget successfully on Tuesday in Central New York. One notable District that was not able to pass their budget was the North Syracuse School District. For them, this was the first time in eighteen years that the budget proposal has been voted down. Many are citing this as a ramification to a massive

tax increase that was proposed. This can be looked at as just another sign of the times with the fact that School Districts state- and nationwide are running out of places to turn to for funding.

Another District that was not able to pass their budget was the Jordan-Elbridge School District, an organization that has had its image marred in the local media as of late with bad press and scandal. This was the most significant vote-down by far in the region, with the budget receiving just 323 yes votes and a whopping 1282 no votes. This is about a 20% approval and 80% disapproval. In a not-so-ironic twist, the only piece to the Jordan-Elbridge vote to pass was a proposition that would reduce the size of the Board of Education there from nine members to seven.

No matter your opinion on the details of the budget, one thing is certain: the fact that we have a specific spending plan in place next year in Fulton schools. This will insure that the effects of low funding paired with high demand will not be as bad as they could have been.

Some information for this article was obtained from Oswego County Today and WSYR-TV.



Purple was the color of the day last Wednesday at the high school as a majority of the GRB faculty donned purple clothing in support of fellow Bodley teacher Mr. Bob Reale. Math teacher Mr. Reale, who is also the advisor for the Class of 2011, was recently diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. (Mr. Mainville photo)

Opinion

Give them a break: teachers are stressed too!

By Ryann Crofoot

I've heard a lot of students complaining about how their teachers are getting on their backs about homework, especially in the last few weeks of school. Some say that their teachers haven't really cared about it much for the rest of the year, but as we get closer to closing it up, teachers will crack down on them for their homework. Students complain that they are already stressed as it is with Regents and finals coming up, and the clamp down on homework isn't helping them much.



But teachers are just as stressed out as students are. Throughout the year, they have had to deal with hateful students and sometimes hateful parents. They have to deal with people hating the subject they teach. In general, people don't appreciate all the extra work they have to do outside of school, grading papers, putting together a lesson plan, and making sure any presentations they need are completed and at their disposal.

They also have to deal with having to cram in tons of stuff we need to know in a period of time almost too short to do it in. On top of that, they have to worry about making sure they got their point across dur-

You know it's spring on the farm when...

By Daniel Summerville

Last week was a welcome break from the rain and storms that have been

berating Central New York for what seems like forever. This lull in the weather gave farmers a bit of time to finish patching up fences on their properties. There are still quite a few fences down in the area, but they will soon be done, weather permitting. In the past few days, many farmers have fixed enough fence to start letting the cows out of the barns.

While it may not seem like a big deal to most people, letting the cows out for the first time is quite an undertaking. They have been inside all winter, not doing much more than eating, sleeping, and being milked. Their first trip outside often gets them quite excited, and an excited cow will not bother to stop before running through a newly fixed fence. The younger cows and heifers often gallop around, stretching their muscles after a long winter of lying about, while the older cows are content with relaxing in the pastures, enjoying the tender young plants. By noon, the cows can be seen grouping together by the gate, ready to get back inside and be milked.

Letting the cows out is only half of the battle. In the early morning

ing the school year. Not to mention, with summer vacation so close, students and teachers alike get anxious and impatient for its arrival.

Although the students are taking the printed test, teachers are being tested too. How their students do on the Regents and finals are usually a direct reflection on how well they have been doing at their job. And with all the budget cuts, they want to make sure they look good. Pushing people to do their homework and loading on review work is their last ditch effort to make sure that their students are prepared for the tests.

It's not as if you have to do the homework and they don't really have to do anything. They have to grade the review work, see if there is a pattern as to what students need to work on, then prepare a lesson to get it across better.

And I'm not saying you should want to do homework, but the least students can do is put in a little effort and stop complaining. Teachers are just trying to make sure students are prepared, and it puts just as much work and stress on them as it does on students, maybe even more. And it's not fair to them and their hard work that students gripe and give them attitude every time they try to collect homework.

Just give your teachers a break. They're just trying to prepare you for the Regents and finals, and they are just as stressed as you. Anyway, there are only a few weeks of school left, and then it's summer vacation!

and afternoon, it is time to bring the excited cows back into the barn to be milked. One would think that a whole winter of staying in the same stall would teach the cows where they belong in the barn, but it does not. It is not uncommon for farmers to be forced to spend half an hour or more persuading cows to step over the gutter and into their assigned stalls. The older cows know enough to step easily into the stall, but the younger ones sometimes decide to jump, which is not always a very good idea. More often than not, the cows go into the wrong stall and must be pushed out and moved to the correct one before being snapped into the stall by their collars. Sometimes letting the cows in seems like more trouble than it is worth, but it is necessary. Letting the cows out keeps them happy and healthy, it is worth a few bumps and bruises.

I have been stepped on, kicked, head-butted, and shoved into walls by cows while letting them into the barn. They can be quite stubborn when they want to be, and when they have their minds set on standing still, it is extremely hard to move them. Having to let the cows in is a part of living on a dairy farm, and even though it is hard, it does get easier as the year goes on. And while it may get easier, letting the cows in is always an adventure.

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In the News

Sophomores hold "Ninja" tournament

Sophomore advisory students went outside for a little fun on Friday to take part in a "Ninja" tournament. In the top photo Steve McDougall, Maranda Mattiaccio, Lille Cooper and Kayla Hatch (left to right) start the game off while in the bottom photo Kyle Loftus and Haley Noel (back) look on as Kyna Sanchez and Janelle Tallents battle it out. The object is to dodge the advances of the opponent while working to touch the hand of the other competitors. Sanchez and McDougall advanced to this Tuesday's finale along with Lacey Rusaw, Patrick Fink, Austin Mills, Shane Beauregard, Marissa Laun, Ray Luis, Laura Perwitz, Danielle Trail, Cameron Tracy, and Kalene Morrison. (top photo by Mr. Senecal, bottom photo by Vanessa Langdon)

Bizarre news of the day

A California man was found living with the badly decomposed body of a woman after neighbors called to complain of an unusual smell coming from inside the man's studio apartment. Santa Cruz police officers found the 30-year-old woman's body after entering the apartment.

Investigators haven't been able to establish how the woman died because of the deteriorated state of her body. Investigators also haven't determined how long the woman had been dead, but Santa Cruz deputy police Chief Steve Clark said he was comfortable saying it had been at least a week.

The apartment's resident, a 63-year-old man, was in custody on a no-bail parole hold based on a prior drug conviction, Clark said. It wasn't clear if he and the woman were sharing the apartment as roommates or if they were romantically involved.

"If it is indeed a homicide, then he becomes a suspect," Clark said. "He could also be charged with failure to report a death as appropriate." The man has had what Clark described as a "storied history" with Santa Cruz police, having been arrested previously on drug and alcohol related offenses, though it wasn't clear how much time he had served behind bars.

By Morgan Firenze

Quote of the day:

"The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book."

~Author Unknown



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School of Thought compiled by Max Fobes

What is on your mind?



"I want to Dance!"

Craig Falanga



"Teenage pregnancy is a problem."

Jerrica Dishaw



"A Cali-swag member was killed a few days ago."
(Teach me how to Dougie)

Dakota Kingsley



"The people in our school, and how I don't like them."

Sophie Sorbello

Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Cloudy with a shower or storm. High in the upper-70s.
Record high: 93 (1977).
Avg. high: 71.

Tonight:



Cloudy with a shower or storm. Low around 60.
Record low: 32 (1967).
Avg. low: 487.

Tomorrow:



Mainly cloudy with a shower or storm. High around 70.
Record high: (no data).
Avg. high: 71

*GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*