



# NEW ROCHELLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## *From the Superintendent*



May 2010

In September 2009 when we began identifying budget areas to reduce, we asked one basic question, "What do you value in our schools?" Not surprisingly the responses universally pointed to the maintenance and continued growth of our quality instructional programs, with particular emphasis upon the desire to preserve favorable class sizes at all levels of our educational continuum. Respondents also expressed tremendous support for the District's ability to attract and maintain a highly skilled work force to deliver on that objective.

Decisions related to development of the 2010-11 School District Budget were extremely difficult to make. For the first time in anyone's recent memory, the school budget will decrease from one year to the next. The result we believe is a realistic budget which takes into account the financial challenges of our City, the community, our parents and employees while working to preserve that which we value most, namely the quality of our educational programs.

The Proposed Budget for 2010-11 represents a \$4.6-million reduction in spending and a decrease of 2.0% from the 2009-10 expense budget.

When the proposed State Aid cut of \$4.4 million is combined with increases for Mandatory Retirement Contributions, utility costs, and other contractual commitments, our district is actually faced with much deeper cuts.

The Proposed 2010-11 School District Budget calls for a reduction of 78 staff positions, some of which will be realized through retirements and resignations while others through layoffs. In addition, the collective bargaining units agreed to no salary increases from July through December 2009, will do the same from July through December 2010.

While the cuts and proposed reductions in staffing will challenge us to try to do less with more, it is clear that our Board of Education and the school community will work tirelessly to preserve the best possible opportunities for our children. New Rochelle is an outstanding District and with the support of its many satisfied residents, we will continue to be so for the 2010-11 school year.

Sincerely,  
*Richard E. Organisciak*  
Superintendent of Schools

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