

# Monroe Township Public Schools

Board of Education's Proposed  
Budget for 2008-2009 School Year

# Monroe Township Public Schools

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# Message from the Interim Superintendent

As I come to the conclusion of my 29th year as an educator in Monroe Township, and a resident of 36 years, I've seen a substantial growth in our student population, while state funding, until this year, remained disproportionate. Both of my sons attended and graduated from Williamstown High School when the course offerings and the building left much to be desired. I have been part of and have witnessed an educational renaissance in Monroe Township while we have the dubious honor of remaining the lowest spending per pupil K-12 district in Gloucester County.

We now have a new high school with curriculum offerings that include 13 advanced placement courses and six academies. The population of Monroe Township continues to grow and our home values continue to increase mainly due to the fact that we have a highly rated school district. We continue to do more with less. Class size K-12 continues to increase. Building referendums are approved, and budgets are defeated.

# Message from the Interim Superintendent – (continued)

After many years of “flat funding,” the state of New Jersey has finally adhered to its formula for funding public schools based on student growth by allocating an additional \$5,523,000 to Monroe.

The 2008-2009 School Budget, presented by the Board of Education, represents a ZERO increase in current expense to the tax payers. The Board has wisely utilized a portion of the additional funds to help reduce class size by recommending hiring: six high school teachers, five elementary teachers to be used where needed to decrease class size, two elementary guidance counselors, and two special education teachers. In addition, the Board allocated funds for an additional Resource Officer for the high school, and an additional Attendance Officer for the district.

## Message from the Interim Superintendent – (continued)

Tax payers were also faced with paying their share of the Debt Service for all new construction calculated at \$4,867,384 for the 2008-2009 school year. The Board agreed to further aid the taxpayer by recommending a ZERO increase in Debt Service. The Board was able to accomplish this by allocating \$2,000,000 earned interest on new construction bond investments *and* by reducing the local current expense tax levy to account for the remaining balance of \$2,867,384.

**In conclusion,** I ask that you exercise your right to vote on April, 15, 2008. Your vote, whether for or against the proposed school budget, will make a difference in class size and the quality of education we will be providing our students in the years to come.

# Commitment

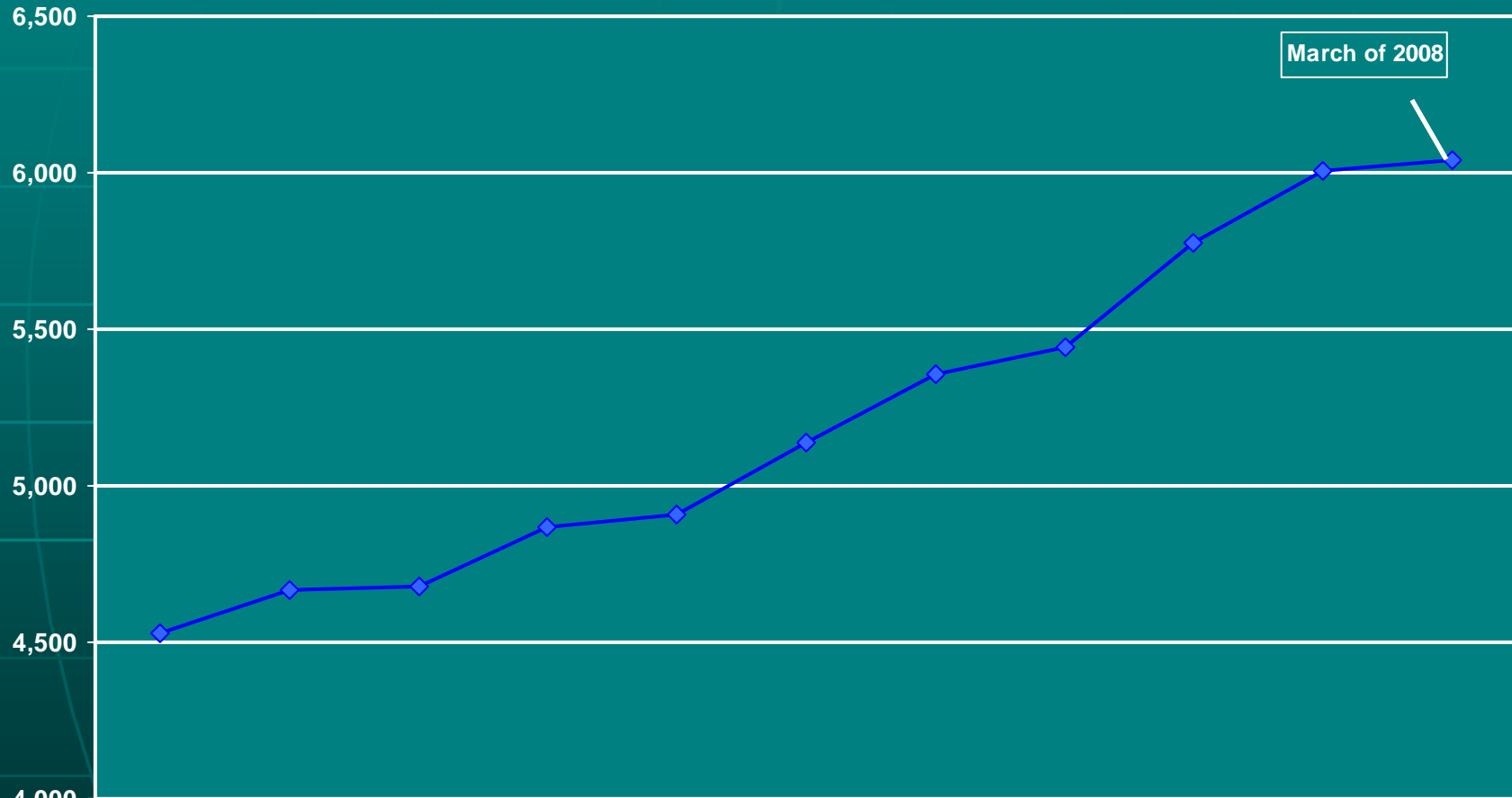
The 2008-2009 Monroe Township Board of Education's Proposed Budget represents its continued commitment to providing our students with an excellent, all-around education.

The Board's goals at the onset were to:

- maximize efficiency,
- reduce class size by adding additional staff, and
- ease the taxpayer's burden by recommending a **zero** increase in both Current Expense and Debt Service.

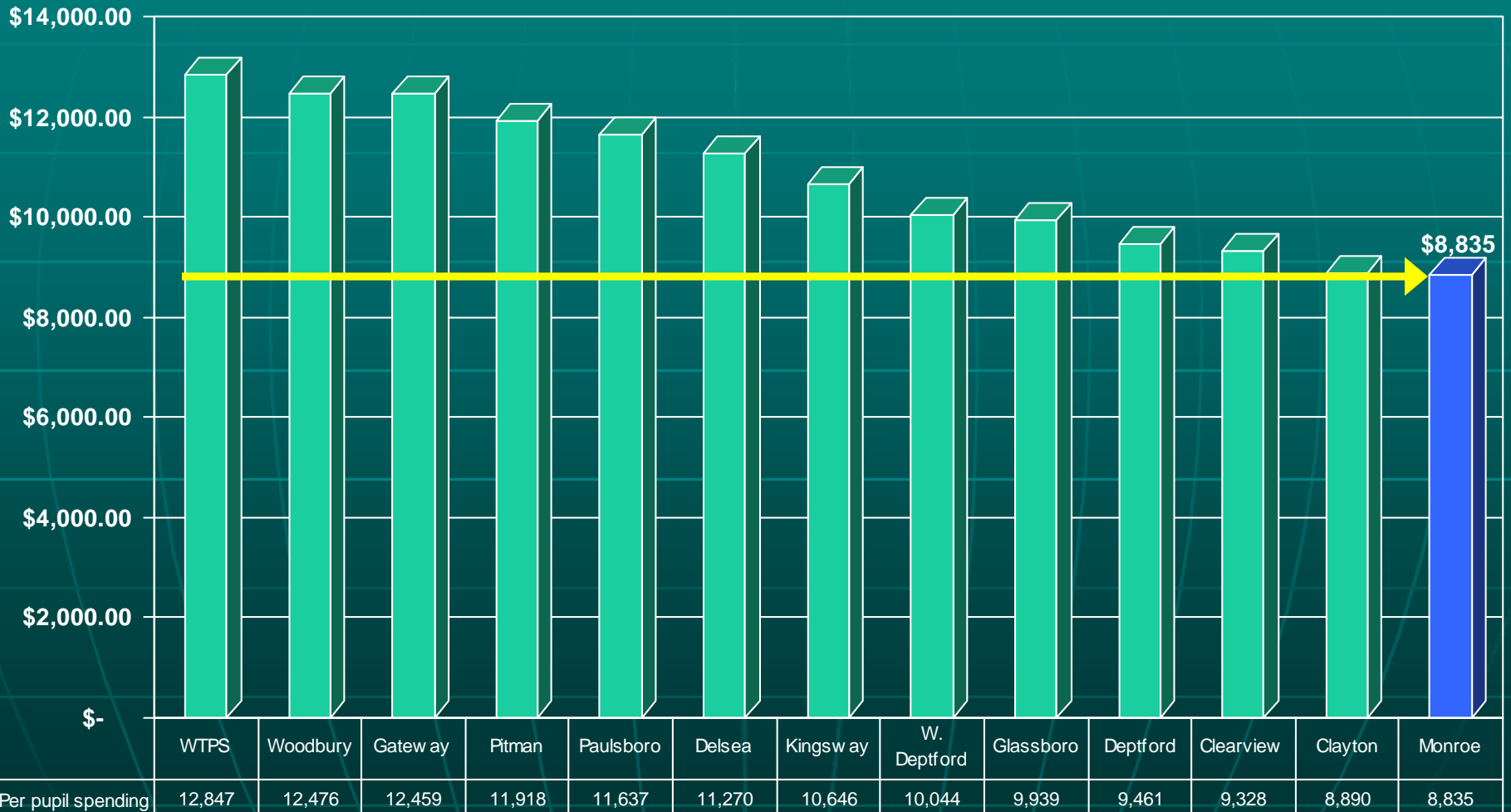
**They Have Accomplished All of This  
and More . . .**

# Student Enrollment Growth



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	March of 2008
Student Enrollment	4,526	4,664	4,677	4,870	4,906	5,136	5,354	5,442	5,774	6007	6042

# Per Pupil Expenditures in Gloucester County



# State Aid



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
State Aid	23,242,180	25,401,420	25,622,400	25,946,340	26,684,890	26,663,370	25,708,679	26,447,072	33,137,332

# Current Expense Revenue Increase

(128,382.00)	Difference between 07/08 & 08/09 Allocated Fund Balance
25,572.00	Miscellaneous Revenue
(100.00)	Capital Reserve Decrease
1,167,260.00	Continuing State Revenue
5,523,000.00	Increase in State Revenue
<u>(422,000.00)</u>	Reduction in Local Tax Levy
<b>\$6,165,350.00</b>	<b>Total</b>

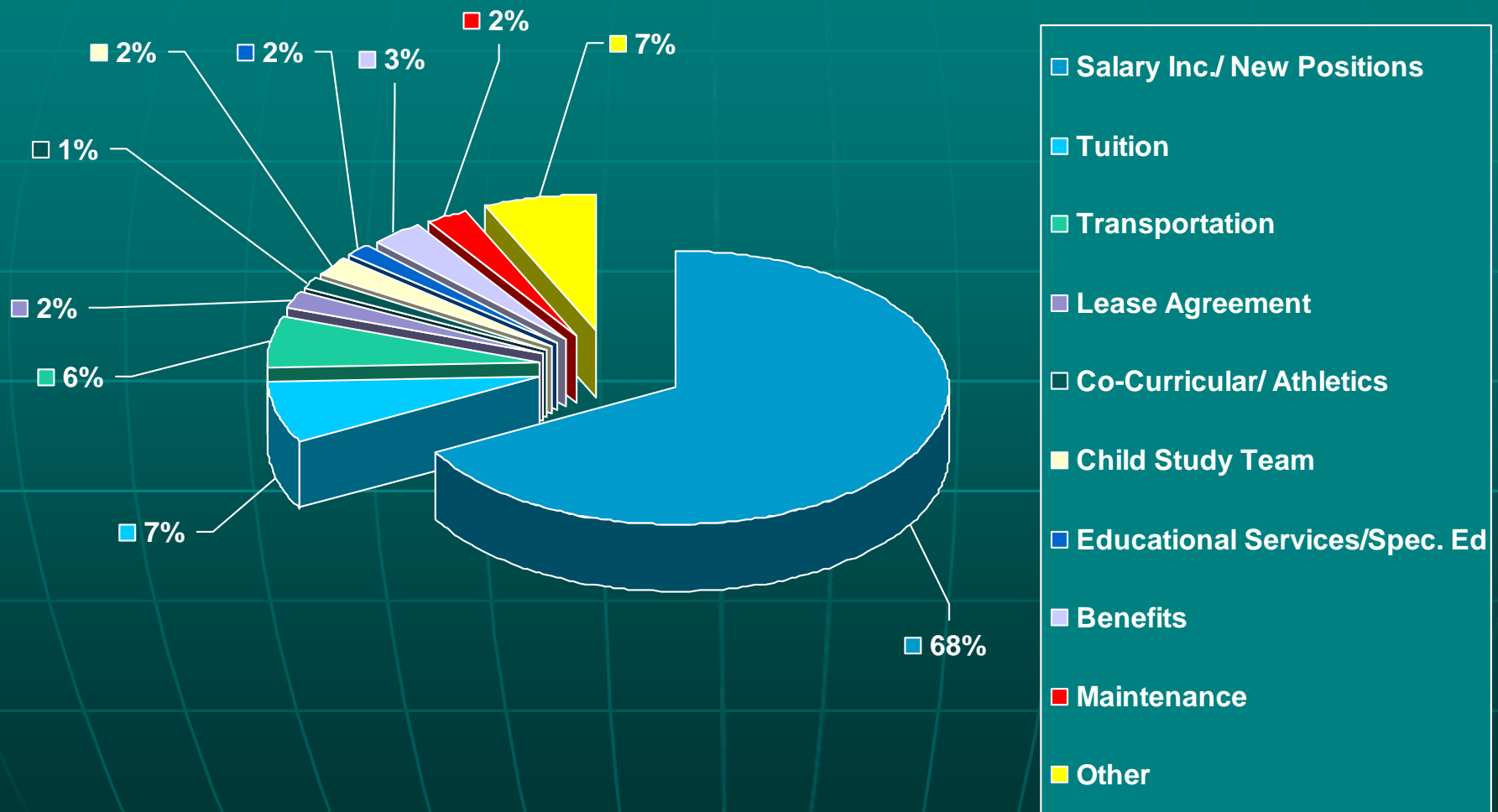
# Current Expense Budget Increase:

■ 2007-2008.....	\$65,259,621.00
■ 2008-2009....	<u>\$71,424,971.00</u>
	<b>\$ 6,165,350.00</b>

# Current Expense Budget Increase

Contractual Salary Increases/New Positions	\$ 4,144,932
Tuition	\$ 437,264
Transportation	\$ 391,223
Lease Agreement	\$ 116,500
Co-Curricular Administration/Athletics	\$ 87,419
Child Study Team	\$ 130,000
Educational Services – Special Ed.	\$ 100,000
Benefits	\$ 195,617
Maintenance	\$ 148,544
Other	\$ 413,851
Total	\$ <b>6,165,350</b>

# What's Included in the Increase



# BOE Recommended New Staff

• 6 High School	\$	270,000.00
• 5 Elementary assigned as needed		225,000.00
• 1 Middle School		45,000.00
• 2 Special Education		90,000.00
• 2 Elementary Guidance Counselors		110,000.00
• 1 High School Resource Officer		80,000.00
• 1 District Attendance Officer		<u>25,000.00</u>
	Total:	\$ 845,000.00

# How we got to a Zero Increase in Debt Service

All building projects “Mortgage”	\$ 7,180,313
Earned interest on new construction bond investments	2,000,000
State Aid	2,312,929
Local Share/Tax levy	2,867,384

The School Board’s Auditor recommended reducing the Local Tax Levy for Current Expense by \$422,000 in order to accomplish the goal of a zero increase in Debt Service.

## Report of District Status Above or At or Below Adequacy

### District Adequacy Spending:

2008 – 2009 General Fund Levy	\$	35,896,539(A)
Equalization Aid	\$	27,780,593 (B)
Total Budget Adequacy Spending	\$	63,577,132 (C)
District Adequacy Budget	\$	70,879,247 (D)
Excess Amount (C-D)	\$	(7,202,115) (E)

If (E) is:

Positive then the proposed budget exceeds adequacy

Zero or negative than the proposed budget is at or below adequacy

**We are 7,202,115 below adequacy**

The State no longer uses "the Box" for comparison purposes. The State now uses Under/Over Adequacy to determine district status.

- \* Zero increase in Budgeted Current Expense

- \* Zero increase in Debt Service