



Report on the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Budget Vote Exit Poll of May 18, 2010

Overview & Process

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake offered an nine-question exit poll in two forms at the budget vote on May 18, 2010.

Voters could use either a paper form or an online computer form of the exit poll. This was the fourth year we offered the poll in two forms. The questions were the same on both versions. Copies of the paper exit poll were sitting on the tables where voters signed in to vote to encourage them to participate in the poll after they voted. Oftentimes the election inspectors handed people a copy of the exit poll as well.

Online responses were collected on 6-8 wireless laptop computers throughout the entire vote (7:00 am to 9:00 pm). Communications Specialist Christy Multer, Technology Facilitator Anne-Marie Mueller, or both, staffed the exit poll tables throughout the vote to assist respondents and keep an eye on the equipment. There were no problems with the SurveyMonkey program, and only a brief hardware problem during the vote. Twice during the course of the day, the laptops lost their internet connection. Both times this is noticed immediately and fixed within a few minutes by resetting the wireless access point. The connection breaks may have been caused by someone using a cell phone in close proximity to the access point.

After May 18, answers received on the paper polling forms were entered into the online version of the exit poll in order to have all data in one database.

The Data

Results for all nine exit poll questions are shown in the charts below. A total of 444 voters chose to answer the exit poll out of 3,063 voters.

This is significantly fewer exit poll respondents than we had in 2009 (827) but more than in 2008 (316) or 2007 (385). A large new “Exit Poll” sign was printed and hung above the polling tables to encourage participation this year. Participation was probably impacted by the fact that the district had a near record number of total voters (3,063), which created some very long lines and a longer than usual wait time to vote in some instances – meaning some busy folks had less time to spare to answer the exit poll. Also the lines and sheer volume of people waiting to vote made the exit poll tables less visible at times.

In looking at the following charts, we need to keep in mind that every year Yes voters seem more willing to answer the exit poll than No voters. Hence, once again this year, those who supported the budget are over-represented in the exit poll. Overall, 72% of the 444 exit poll respondents said they voted Yes on the school budget while only 63% of the 3,063 actual voters voted Yes on May 18, 2010.

All percentages in the charts below are based on the number of respondents who actually gave an answer to each question and are rounded to the nearest whole percent. There were questions left blank here and there throughout the forms, which is why the “out of” numbers vary. Exit poll data is given below for ALL respondents in the “Overall” column. Results are then broken down based on whether respondents said they voted Yes or No on the school budget or based on a different factor as indicated.

1. “In what town do you live?”

	Overall (out of 430)		Among those voting Yes (out of 296)		Among those voting No (out of 112)	
Ballston	36%	157	38%	114	30%	34
Charlton	19%	83	16%	46	31%	35
Clifton Park	5%	20	4%	12	5%	6
Glenville	40%	170	42%	124	33%	37

2. “Do you have children or grandchildren CURRENTLY attending the BH-BL Schools?”

	Overall (out of 433)		Among those voting Yes (out of 296)		Among those voting No (out of 115)	
Yes	45%	196	49%	144	38%	44
No	32%	138	27%	79	40%	46
Not now, but one or more has graduated from BH-BL	21%	89	22%	65	20%	23
Not now, but they will attend when they are older	2%	10	3%	8	2%	2

3. “Are you or your spouse an employee of the BH-BL school district?”

	Overall (out of 431)		Among those voting Yes (out of 294)		Among those voting No (out of 115)	
Yes, an employee	17%	75	21%	62	9%	10
No, not an employee	83%	356	79%	232	91%	105

4. “What age group are you?”

	Overall (out of 434)		Among those voting Yes (out of 298)		Among those voting No (out of 117)	
18 – 29 years	7%	31	8%	25	3%	4
30 – 44 years	15%	66	18%	53	11%	13
45 – 60 years	45%	194	43%	127	50%	59
61 & older	33%	143	31%	92	35%	41

5. “How did you vote on the Proposed 2010-11 Budget today?”

	Overall (out of 417)	
Yes, in favor	72%	300
No, opposed	28%	117

Note for comparison:

On the actual budget vote, we had 63% (1,904 people) vote Yes and 37% (1,141 people) vote No.

Hence Yes voters are over-represented in the exit poll.

6. “What were your REASONS for voting as you did on the budget?

(Check all that apply)” [Most frequent answer for each type of voter is highlighted in bold]

	Overall (out of 427)		Among those voting Yes (out of 295)		Among those voting No (out of 109)	
You are satisfied with the quality of the schools.	58%	249	76%	223	13%	14
You feel the quality of the schools is worth the cost.	62%	265	86%	253	1%	1
You have confidence in the School Board and administration.	45%	190	61%	180	1%	1
The spending/tax increase is reasonable.	50%	213	69%	202	3%	3
You have children in the schools.	32%	136	41%	122	6%	7
You believe in supporting the schools	63%	268	84%	248	6%	6
The budget addresses a service or area that's important to you	24%	104	31%	93	3%	3
You are NOT satisfied with the quality of the schools.	4%	15	1%	3	9%	10
You are NOT happy with the cost of the schools.	17%	74	1%	2	62%	67
You LACK confidence in the School Board & administration.	12%	51	2%	7	39%	43
The spending/tax increase is too high.	19%	82	<1%	1	68%	74
You have no children in the schools.	6%	26	3%	8	15%	16
Your are concerned about the economy & rising costs.	24%	101	5%	15	73%	80
The budget is too LOW or fails to provide a service that is important to you.	4%	17	3%	10	6%	7
OTHER reasons	99 replies: see below		44 replies		55 replies	

7. “Do you feel that you had adequate information about the proposed budget?”

	Overall (out of 426)		Among those voting Yes (out of 293)		Among those voting No (out of 115)	
Yes, I had adequate information.	93%	398	97%	285	84%	97
No, I did not have adequate information.	7%	28	3%	8	16%	18

**8. “What were your sources of information about the school budget?
(Check all that apply)”**

	Overall (out of 428)		Among those voting Yes (out of 293)		Among those voting No (out of 113)	
District budget newsletter	90%	385	92%	270	87%	98
Budget Forums or other Board of Ed. meetings	26%	110	28%	81	22%	25
PTA publications or meetings	9%	39	8%	24	11%	12
District website	36%	155	37%	108	34%	38
School district staff	29%	125	33%	96	21%	24
Friends & neighbors	19%	80	15%	44	27%	30
Local TV news	12%	53	6%	18	28%	32
<i>Daily Gazette</i>	33%	140	29%	85	43%	49
<i>Times Union</i>	5%	22	2%	5	13%	15
<i>Burnt Hills Spotlight</i>	19%	81	17%	49	26%	29
Other information source	17 replies: see below		12 replies		5 replies	

9. “How did you vote on the Bus Purchase Proposition today?”

	Overall (out of 426)		Among those voting Yes on budget (out of 293)		Among those voting No on budget (out of 114)	
Yes on bus purchase	68%	290	85%	250	25%	29
No on bus purchase	32%	136	15%	43	75%	85

Additional Data Charts

How did you vote on the Proposed Budget based on Town of Residence

	Ballston residents (out of 148)		Charlton residents (out of 81)		Clifton Park residents (out of 18)		Glenville residents (out of 161)	
Yes, in favor	77%	114	57%	46	67%	12	77%	124
No, opposed	23%	34	43%	35	33%	6	23%	37

Newspapers cited as a budget information source based on Town of Residence

	Ballston residents (out of 151)		Charlton residents (out of 79)		Clifton Park residents (out of 19)		Glenville residents (out of 168)	
<i>Daily Gazette</i>	29%	43	30%	24	32%	6	36%	60
<i>Times Union</i>	6%	9	6%	5	11%	2	4%	6
<i>Burnt Hills Spotlight</i>	22%	33	17%	13	21%	4	18%	30

"Other" Comments

There were three spots on the exit poll where respondents could write in their own comments. All comments are printed in the Addendum below.

Question 6 allowed respondents to choose from among 14 possible reasons for voting the way they did on the budget, and also allowed them to write in their own reason. Three-quarters of the people who answered this question were content with the reasons provided, and one-quarter wrote in an "Other" reason. This included 44 Yes voters and 55 No voters.

The most frequent "Other" reasons for their vote provided by **YES Voters** can be grouped into the following four themes:

1. Either willing or grudging support for the Board's budget decisions and/or budget process. (Ex. "I voted in favor of the budget because of the communication and transparency of the budgetary process that was extended to the community." "I felt the budget cuts were too deep but appreciate the fact the Board is looking ahead to next year also.")
2. Comments and concerns about the cuts made to the budget, either in general or regarding specific reductions.
3. Belief that a budget defeat would be worse. (Ex. "It is slightly better than a contingency budget.").
4. Support for education in general and/or the quality of education here at BH-BL.

The most frequent “Other” reasons for their vote provided by **NO Voters** can be grouped into the following four themes. Almost all comments related to costs rather than the quality of school programs.

1. Concerns about contracts, negotiations, and the lack of concessions by the teachers.
2. Costs and/or taxes in general are too high. Respondent cannot afford the increase.
3. District salaries, benefits or services are too expensive.
4. Comments that the budget cuts made are either the wrong ones, too deep or not deep enough.

Question 8 asked about respondents’ sources of information on the school budget. In addition to choosing from 10 possible information sources, 17 people supplied a comment or an “Other” information source here. This included the Teachers Association and the internet, including www.seethroughny.net

At the end, the survey form also invited respondents to write down any additional comments, and 60 people did so. Many of these comments echoed the themes given above. A few were compliments on the quality of district programs. Since this general comment opportunity was positioned right after the question on the Bus Purchase Proposition, several people included opinions about buses, either pro or con. Others used this as an opportunity to air a specific complaint or advocate for another personal value. There were also several people who raised concerns about the long lines they experienced while voting.

Conclusion

The data and opinions collected in the 2010 exit poll are largely similar to what we have seen in previous exit polls at BH-BL. What was different in 2010 was an even worse national and state economy than we experienced in 2009, and this was reflected in the exit poll. There were far fewer comments made about the quality of district programs (either good or bad) than we have seen in the past, and fewer comments about non-budgetary concerns. As we might expect given the lengthy and much publicized process to create the 2010-11 budget, there were more comments about the budget process itself and the various spending reductions than we have received in the past.

Prepared for the Board of Education by:

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ADDENDUM: Comments collected on the BH-BL Exit Poll of May 18, 2010

All comments received are reprinted below. They are grouped to show whether the respondent voted Yes or No on the budget. (The authors of the last seven comments did not check the box regarding how they voted.)

Question 6: OTHER reasons for voting as you did on the budget:			
	How did you vote on the Proposed 2010-11 Budget today?		
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	Response Count
	44	55	99
1	X		I am a teacher in the district. I am saddened by the cuts being made. I want to be sure that no more items are cut.
2	X		As a former employee I support the schools and the people.
3	X		BHBL Schools are always great.
4	X		I reluctantly approved the budget because a rejected budget would lead to a LOWER revised budget, and I think the current budget is too low already. Too many cuts to teaching staff have been made, and not enough union concessions and administrative cuts were made.
5	X		The Board and administration did are excellent job of finding ways to respond to the current economy and reduce the budget. I appreciate their openness and candor -- not something I see in other districts.
6	X		It's important to maintain & improve the quality of the schools to be sure children are well educated and prepared for the future.
7	X		I went to school here
8	X		I would have voted for a larger increase because I do not want the value of the homes in the district to decline.
9	X		Music and Sports programs are both very important, and the first to be cut when a budget does not pass
10	X		To avoid further cuts
11	X		I appreciate the Board minimizing the amount of the tax increase in these times of limited tax payer personal resources.
12	X		I want to support Gifted student education. (I teach in the GT Young Scholars Program through BOCES.)
13	X		Excellent presentation booklet! This made me feel very well informed.
14	X		I voted yes; however, I believe that the tax rate was too low and the reductions in student services was too high. I would have supported a higher tax increase.
15	X		supporting education is supporting the future.
16	X		NYSUT member, South Colonie Teacher, know the importance of "yes" votes
17	X		Communication transparency on issues and proposals
18	X		I voted in favor of the budget because of the communication and transparency of the budgetary process that was extended to the community.
19	X		the alternative is not favorable-going to a contingency budget
20	X		It is slightly better than the contingency budget
21	X		Didn't want to go to a contingency budget.
22	X		Concern that a no vote would result in the threat of or actual cancelling of sports, music,

			art programs which the children clearly are in need of.
23	X		If this budget doesn't pass, we still face cuts and still an increase in taxes.
24	X		I think that there should have been more money spent in the budget. I know that this will result in cutting programs such as AP classes and other options that are currently available students. I graduated from this school and I have seen which classes have already been cut and which are on the verge of being cut and looking over them I realize that these are the classes which have been the most beneficial to me after graduation. As the options narrow and students have fewer options I realize that the things left are the classes I associate with being the easier classes and those that people chose to take when they do not feel like completing a challenging curriculum. I think this is not a good move for the schools and will harm our students. Instead of cutting the challenging classes we should be encouraging students to take these upper level classes and push themselves to do better.
25	X		Although the economy is imposing financial difficulties on many families, myself included, one of the main reasons we moved to the area is because of the schools, and I feel it is important to continue to support the excellence even in a difficult economy. Current and future state budget cuts to school districts across the state, will continue to pose challenges to school boards and I applaud the BHBL Board for developing a reasonable budget.
26	X		In the event the buget is voted down I do not like the proposed cuts to programs my children are involved in. I feel too much is spent on the sports programs and not enough on theater and music. I think the board did not do a good job listening to the opinions of those of use who wehnt to the board meetings. Divide and conqur so they don't have to respond to our direct inquiries is not a good policy. More transperancy is needed in how they reach these decisions. Cutting teaching staff is never a good idea.
27	X		The tax increase and budget increase was minimal.
28	X		I am a retired teacher (another district).
29	X		It is important for the older generation to ensure quality education for the youth -our future. I have always been supportive of the BH-BL teachers & Board.
30	X		Care has been taken to keep the budget lower, but cutting where needed to keep it within bounds of money available.
31	X		We moved into this district specifically because of the quality of the schools. Education is paramount!
32	X		I did not want any increase but I was not active in voicing my opinion so I voted "yes."
33	X		You can't spend money you don't have.
34	X		Quality education is a must. However, costs have to be evaluated and misuse of funds eliminated.
35	X		I would have voted NO to send a message about union concessions for teachers and administrators.
36	X		Overall, believe the budget is low, however, given the economic climate I feel the district took a proactive course.
37	X		Too many high paying administrator jobs. Too many department heads (save thousands). Why lay off the little guy who really needs a job?
38	X		Grandchildren in the schools.
39	X		I felt the budget cuts were too deep but appreciate the fact the Board is looking ahead to next year also.
40	X		I am a retired teacher. I am sad about the reduction of teachers and services.
41	X		I am unhappy that people are losing jobs.
42	X		We are educating our future leaders.
43	X		Approach to find reasonable solution was well thought out and executed. Pamphlet very informative.
44	X		Please reinstate teaching staff.

45		X	CUTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE IN APPROPRIATE PLACES. AS A TAXPAYER, I AM FRUSTRATED BY THE FUNDING THAT GOES TO SPORTS RATHER THAN ACADEMICS. THE DISTRICT NEEDS TO REEVALUATE ITS PRIORITIES AND REFOCUS ON ACADEMICS. I RECENTLY WENT ON A COLLEGE TOUR WITH MY CHILD. IN TWO SCHOOLS, THEY ASKED IF SHE PLAYS SPORTS. IT WORRIES ME THAT BHBL HAS A REPUTATION FOR ATHLETICS AND NOT HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS BUDGETARY SOUL SEARCHING.
46		X	TEACHER ARE GETTING A 5 TO 10 PERCENT RAISES AND NOT DOING THEIR JOB. I HAVE TO TUTOR MY KIDS AND TOLD THE TEACHERS ARE NOT GOING TO HELP MY KID THAT IS STRUGGLING. I AM ALSO GET HOMEWORK BACK NOT CORRECTED. I AM DOING THEIR JOB AND THEY ARE GETTING PAY RAISES WHEN THE AVERAGE PERSON IN THIS AREA ISN'T.
47		X	<p>There are too many cuts proposed for staff who have a direct impact on instruction and student success and too few administrative cuts. Mr. Schultz has put his own spin on this budget to make it look as though administration has been "hit hard" by this proposed budget, but in my opinion that is far from the truth. Cuts should occur where they will have the most impact on \$\$\$\$ and least impact on students-cut administration...replace administrators with good administrative assistants where necessary. Keep teachers in the classrooms.</p> <p>Specific examples of our top heavy school district: middle school has employed two interim dean of students this year. they are hiring to fill this position next year. is it necessary? why not cut the position now while it is only being filled by a temp?</p> <p>Special education-three administrators now do the job that 1.5 were able to do a few short years ago. eliminate 1.5 over paid admins and replace with competent admin. assistants for way fewer \$\$\$\$.</p> <p>The current administration and the board should be ashamed of themselves for proposing so many drastic cuts to invaluable direct service programs. I do not believe board members are fully informed as to the impact of such cuts (ie open door), nor do they make the effort to inform themselves. I cannot remember the last time I saw a board member in a school in this district.</p>
48		X	Can't afford Taxes - Have to sell House
49		X	If BHBL Teachers do not want layoffs , then an option is a cut in pay, but they just as soon let the children suffer, they do not care one way or an other how the vote turns out. This is another reason we're looking to leave the district.
50		X	teacher are being paid much too much, and services that are expensive are going to a limited few recipients.
51		X	<p>Not enough scrutiny on cutting expenses, multiple bidding on major expenses. Employee benefits out of line with local averages.</p> <p>Teachers' union does nothing about low performing teachers</p>
52		X	my husband works for thestate and there is always the chance we could lose his income or have it decreased.
53		X	Valuable employees have lost due to poor planning and inept leadership
54		X	Concessions need to come from the union. Bottom line is that the citizens are making less money AND paying more taxes AND children are being shortchanged. I want excellent teachers to be paid excellently and mediocre teachers to be compensated relative to their worth. That's how it works in the real world. They would rather eat their own (have teachers laid off and children shortchanged) than make concessions like the rest of the non-unionized population.
55		X	School board is out of touch with current economic realities.
56		X	WITH THE ECONOMY IN ITS CURRENT STATE, THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY INCREASE. SEEMS THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT DON'T GET IT ARE THOSE PAID BY THE TAXPAYERS!
57		X	I believe in supporting schools, but the administrative and employee costs (I know that they're due to union contracts) are too high.

58		X	I think that there are too many administrators costing us too much money. I believe in supporting the education of our students, but I think that too much money is going to support teacher and administrative salaries.
59		X	The state of NY is screwing school districts through unfunded mandates and as I cannot support this.
60		X	I have a child in private school and the costs are just too high to support that plus a tax increase here too. I did vote yes on the buses
61		X	It is time for the teachers' union to participate in the budget reduction process. Their benefits and pensions are unrealistic.
62		X	Budget increases in the recent past were far greater than average inflation rate.
63		X	I think that the school board did a great job in a very difficult situation. However, it is not enough. I did not get a raise last year and won't again this year due to the poor economy. Even though its only a small increase ~2.2% it's too much.
64		X	The Board refused to tell the voters that the ENTIRE tax increase was merely for union raises. I think they should ALL RESIGN!!
65		X	Stonger negotiations for the Teachers Union is needed to keep a cap on increases especially at this time when concessions should be made.
66		X	The cuts were not distributed through diffe'rent areas. Sports had an inconsequential cut and although sports are valuable and I'd hate to see them eliminated, there is no need to have modified sports in this community where there are community sport programs for that age. Also other districts cut their budgets further and staff froze pay. There aren't cuts in administration in porportion to academic cuts. Isn't the purpose of the schools to educate?
67		X	while i feel the budget was admirably done, i feel strongly that the teacher unions need to be giving up some of their ample union benefits.. THIS is what is costing so much. When the unions and teachers get serious, I'll vote yes.
68		X	The level of cuts and the implementation of those cuts is damaging to the educational product being delivered. The amount of money represented by a 4% tax increase, as opposed to a 2% tax increase, was not very high for the individual taxpayer, but huge for the impact it has on our students.
69		X	No one gets a raise inthe recession. Even our schools. Just like a family budget, you look at what you have and decide where to cut. NY State School Taxes are way to high. see notes on the buses too.
70		X	you did not cut salaries
71		X	no increase is wisest at this time - not happy with the only increase in the last few budgets being in admin - DESPITE the 25 fte reduction. Unions are an issue that is impacting every part of this country's economy and it needs to be acknowledged and addressed. Multi year contractual promises of raises that tie the hands of the district to adjust as needed to the economic crisis is a problem that can no longer be ignored. There's not much we can do as a voter, school district user and resident to adjust the budget when the biggest numbers in it are immovable and provide cost of living advantages to only certain union members.
72		X	Do not feel budget was adequately developed, too much emphasis on "across the board" budget cutting at the expense of maintaining quality education at BHBL
73		X	You need to address the union; increases need to stop.
74		X	Teachers should have made some concessions.
75		X	Those with more than 2 children should pay higher taxes. Need teachers to adjust their salaries with other professions when economy is depressed.
76		X	Tired of teachers' union ads "demanding" yes votes for "the sake of the children."
77		X	There needs to be a cap on taxes for seniors on fixed incomes! Teachers should retire no earlier than 60-62 and contribute to pensions and healthcare costs!

78		X	Too many non-essentials provided.
79		X	Not enough cuts in administrative staff and costs. Raise in taxes not acceptable on fixed income.
80		X	Have always supported schools - still do. But when on a fixed income paying becomes more difficult.
81		X	Did not listen to voters at the community meetings.
82		X	If school taxes keep rising how can the kid now in school afford to live in the district the the future.
83		X	Schools okay and budget reasonable, but I can read the salary schedule online and I find it way out of line, with automatic large % increases, and I see my taxes tripling in 18 years - is there an end to it?
84		X	Teachers contracts need to be FROZEN for 5 years to help alleviate the NYs budget AND join the REALITY of the district they serve. ENOUGH!
85		X	I live here, graduated here, have applied for jobs here - I do not even get the courtesy of a response!
86		X	Teachers and administrators do NOT need BOTH raises and COLAS!
87		X	Program cost increase disproportionately high vis-a-vis entire budget. Is no one willing to make concessions in this economy? Get real.
88		X	Need lower taxes.
89		X	Becoming unable to afford all extra stuff you all want. Always remember pensioners do not have a 3% annual increase.
90		X	Need alternative taxation system.
91		X	Just like everybody else in the real world sacrifices must be made. Sharpen your pencils.
92		X	Budget cuts were made to academic areas with only minor cuts to sports and other extracurriculars - also failure to achieve any give backs from unions.
93		X	You are forcing home owners to leave the area. Taxes on homes are too high.
94		X	School taxes are too high. Our taxes have doubled in nine years.
95		X	We need a property tax freeze for seniors on fixed income. You will be next some day!
96		X	Times are bad right now. NO tax increase is acceptable.
97		X	Please no more increasing of my taxes!
98		X	Students should not vote. They do not pay for these costs.
99		X	I haven't seen the staff willing to take a salary freeze or even a small pay cut.

Questions 8: OTHER sources of information about the school budget. (Please specify.)		
How did you vote on the Proposed 2010-11 Budget today?		Response Count
Yes, in favor	No, opposed	
12	5	17
X		I thought the district newsletter was excellent in providing the information needed regarding understanding the budget!
X		District Budget newsletter was extremely informative & well written.
X		BHBL BPA meetings
X		teacher letter

X		burnt hills teachers' union letter
X		complicated info-please simplify
X		Fuji
X		Teachers union
X		Letter from local teachers' association.
X		Excellent job!!
X		voting booth
X		son-in-law teacher at Scotia-Glenville
	X	Disclosure to the residents about the true reason for the increase, which is the Teacher's Union. I have nothing against the teachers, I think they are doing a wonderful job with our kids, however, ALL must look at ways to cut expenses.
	X	on line salary info etc
	X	Radio ads
	X	web seethruny.com
	X	What does 67% for "instruction" mean? Break it out. Only on screen approx. 12 seconds.

You are welcome to add any additional comments here. Thank you for your help!			
	How did you vote on the Proposed 2010-11 Budget today?		
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	Response Count
	32	21	60 (including 7 who did not indicate how they voted on the budget)
1	X		Please continue to support our successful sports programs that mean so much to our students.
2	X		Restoration should go to staffing the High School.
3	X		Restoration should go to staffing the High School.
4	X		I am very concerned that if things continue the way they are, with program and staffing cuts, that the quality of education that we have come to expect in Burnt Hills will be significantly reduced. The quality of the schools is the primary reason that I live and work in this community and I know that is true for many others.
5	X		I feel that since a big part of the budget is staff salaries and benefits, I would sure hope that the school board looks closely at their contracts when it comes time for renewal. My husband is a member of a union and over the years has had to take big cuts in his salary and benefits to keep job. He was even unemployed for a period of time. Good Luck!
6	X		I am sad that the Open Door program @ Stevens will no longer be available.
7	X		If we are truly putting the students first, then we would be cutting administration much deeper and pushing union renegotiations harder. Many other districts were able to renegotiate union contracts in order to save teacher positions and minimize the impact on students. Bh-BL administration and Board did NOT meet my expectations in this area.
8	X		I was very disappointed that the Teachers Association was not willing to make ANY concessions this year. CSEA and the administrators made some concessions in their new contract -- so I expect to see REAL concessions in the new contract to be discussed with the Teachers next year.
9	X		The people here are very nice
10	X		I was not overly favorable to spending that much on new buses, but my understanding is that bus maintenance has been curtailed to some degree with the new budget. Therefore,

			new buses will incur less long-term maintenance costs. Hopefully these new buses include flex-fuel technology or other fuel efficient technologies.
11	X		Terrribly disappointed that the Fine Arts Dept. once again got slashed -not a lot of choices in that area to begin with! Would like to see Special Ed. be reigned in a bit-totally disapportionate
12	X		Teachers and administrators need to stop expecting raises every year! Very disappointed to see Fine arts being slashed again - there's not too much offered in that area as it is - Special Ed needs to be reigned in-way too much spent in that area! If you're going to get rid of Into to Theater, how about getting rid of a sport item also. Sports is getting ridiculous in this school district - I'm as proud of our sports teams as anyone, but we need to have a balance!
13	X		Good Job on the budeget
14	X		I do not feel that we need 3 administrators in our high school and middle schools. If you need a person to fill out grants and other paper work. Get rid of the \$100,000 salary and hire a \$30,000 clerk
15	X		If the budget is defeated, please do not reduce any additional student services. If there is restoration, please restore staffing at the high school. Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide feedback.
16	X		please reinstate staff!
17	X		It is not reasonable to expect a zero % increase. Increases are inevitable. We can either educate our youth and invest in the future of society or we can support the uneducated.
18	X		Keep up the good work!
19	X		I approve of the budget but feel it is necessary to curb spending somehow so I voted no for the Bus Referendum
20	X		The process for teacher and administration contracts needs to be more transparent. Public input should be encouraged, just like in the budget process.
21	X		The administration should look at reducing the cost of the administration. Do we really need all the staff at the top? What is the value add?
22	X		Please, do a better job of holding teachers accountable for implementing only the BEST instructional startegies and techniques, especially when taking other programs away. If teachers are the key to a quality education then you better have your admins do a better job of implementing change in some of your schools because we too often see teachers not using the best instructional techniques. For the amount we pay and the amount that teachers and admin make, please do a better job.
23	X		I have a high deductible health plan and haven't gotten a raise in 1.5 years due to the economy. I don't think teachers deserve better. The long lines voting in the evening (particularly the beginning of the alphabet) are unacceptable. They are discouraging the voters who have children and jobs...hence hurting the chances of the budget passing. If not this year then next.
24	X		The parking and getting into the parking lot at 7:00 was a disaster. There shouldn't be a concert and lacross games the day of the vote. I almost drove away due to frustration in getting to a spot and going around traffic. There are too many people that don't vote, making it difficult just makes it easier to make excuses not to come.
25	X		I am VERY unsatisfied with the manner in which the information was provided. While very specific statistically, there was limited information regarding the IMPACT of the proposals. I also do not feel that the projected cuts are fair and across the board. There is a huge difference between politics and running a business, when will the education of our students be run as effectively as a business?
26	X		I am a 1983 graduate of BHBL, and appreciate the quality of education and extra-curricular education we have in BHBL district. It's a main reason I moved back to this district after seeing the country for nearly 20 years. But the status quo of the teacher's benefits (Defined benefits with very little defined contribution) combined with the non-sustainable healthcare, and pension system we have is breaking us economically here in NY. Since I moved back 7 years ago to the district, my taxes have doubled! and the dysfunctional NY State government we have is going to eventually drive me out of this

			State. And I'm a state worker.
27	X		I am a huge supportor of PUBLIC education. I would like to see the BHBL school district move into the 21st century with communication....(Facebook, Twitter,etc). It is my belief that this Board has listened to a sellect few, who share a common belief of many Board members, and has not listened to the community at large. The Board represents the people who have ellected them, not their own personal agenda. I certainly hope that the school administration will challenge the Board and the community to raise is standards for education and allow thier students to compete globally.
28	X		BHBL does and excellent job of outlining the budget information, the budget process, the justification for the budget decisions and the alternatives (contingent budget)
29	X		You need to ask the teachers, staff, parents and students what should be cut via a preliminary voting process. What is imporant to one group of people may not be to another 4 years later.
30	X		I am still very dissatisfied with the baseball coach who refused to play seniors 2 years ago. Did he get the team he wanted by this year? Does NOT represent the spirit of educating all of our children!
31	X		Grandchild @ Charlton Heights in 1st grade. Daughter class of '87
32	X		Reason for voting NO on Bus Proposition - Costs are tight - need to cut back temporarily.
33		X	Need to Cut Taxes, reduce staff
34		X	BHBL is a good school district. We purchased land here because of the school district, however, I don't appreciate being subjected to a union that feels entitled to live under different rules than the rest of us. The school board has to develop a spine and more people need to be aware of the Taylor Act and Tri-Borough ammendment. The community-at-large is unaware that there the tax increase is basically to pay for staff increases.
35		X	Too many buses to be replaced in a down economic year. I felt it was greedy
36		X	Free money for buses. Its the opposite of unfunded mandates. A no brainer
37		X	I'm sending a message to Albany to stop the unnecessary spending. My taxes are too high already. Enough is enough!!!!
38		X	District needs a management change, from the Board, through the Superintendent.
39		X	I am opposed to borrowing money so I was against the bus proposition. Also, 10 year old buses are newer than the vehicles our family drives. If they still operate, they are cheaper than payments on a new vehicle. And if we stop borrowing the debt portion of the budget would be smaller.
40		X	deisel vehicles last longer than 100,000-120,000 miles. therefore you should p[ut it off 1-3 years.
41		X	Think budget minded. you do not go out and buy a new car when dad gets laid off. Like wise you do not buy a new bus when people are getting laid off all around us. Be wise with what you have and re-direct the money and make it more appropriate. Stop busing for extra struff. Other states have done this for years. Look to successful districts with smaller budgets per student and learn.
42		X	not the right time for new buses with our salaries frozen and potential for sudden lack of income. BHBL buses have been kept more than ahead of the game and can easily ride out the economic crisis.
43		X	I appreciate the board effort to reach out to educate the public, but feel improvement is needed in the future
44		X	40+ million \$\$ of budget for staff? A little much!
45		X	Separating the buses from the overall budget is a "dishonest" tactic, as is doing the same for capital expenditures during the school year.
46		X	The economy warrants change immediately.
47		X	Too much cut to academics, not enough cuts to sports.
48		X	Two other items - 1. Rumors of a "clique" among certain "administrators" and teachers

			are being heard. This is not a proper state of affairs. 2. Rumors of bullying are prevalent especially among your "great" varsity football team. Are they real "stars" they can get away with it?
49		X	Time was children did walk to school. Time was parents volunteered for support class help. Time was fewer administrators.
50		X	Simply cannot afford to pay any more taxes. Join the real world and make necessary cuts like we all have to.
51		X	This school Board is too generous to teachers and administrators. Last week Gazette editorial spells it all out. Pay scales for the above are out of line. Pensions are enormous and will tax senior citizens out of their homes. But so what? You people don't give a damn. The school leeches are happy. I'm not!
52		X	At this time money short - sell house if school taxes go up.
53		X	Need more help at [voting] sign in desks! Slow!
54			Why did I have to wait to vote in the A-E line for 20 minutes while S-Z and M-R had 2 workers and one or two voters in line?
55			<p>You have got to be kidding, another tax increase. In the last 10 years my modest home has been re-valued 3 times - an assessment increase of 87%, this has gone on for 23 years now! enough! Again I will vote no!</p> <p>The problem is that 70% of the budget is used for salaries and benefits. Teachers & administrators are greatly over paid. Teachers work only 183 days (not 260 PLUS like the rest of us) they have great health care, retirements and pay steps, all at the taxpayers expense. School administrators often earn \$100,000 plus, and also have excellent benefits. Schools, like the government have become a huge burden on the taxpayer, unneeded programs must be cut, salaries must be capped and cut, and excessive staff removed. No salary that is paid for by taxes should ever be over \$80,000.</p>
56			Please buy school buses with seat belts.
57			It's time we learned how to control spending!
58			GO BH
59			I'm not too far out of the school district and remember some of the buses... updating is necessary in some and having additional buses would be a positive
60			If we are in a bad economy, just like our parents & grandparents used to conserve during the Depression years, then if we conserve this is extra money to spend.