

# WELCOME

Duanesburg Central School District

COMMUNITY FORUM

February 23, 2009

Please help yourself to refreshments. They were provided by the  
PTSO and Administration at no expense to the district

# OUR GOAL OUR CHILDREN



# Tonight's Format

- Index cards on refreshment table
  - Write your name and hand in to Jeanne Beach at any time during the evening
- Individuals called on to speak in the order cards are received
- A time limit will be imposed to maximize the amount of feedback
- Please do not repeat what has already been said
- Meeting will adjourn at 9 p.m.
- Anyone who does not speak tonight will go first at the next session
- Please hold all questions to the end

# What You Told Us Last Year

- Challenging all of our students at their individual level to reach their full potential
- Improve communication between parents, the community and the school

# 2008-09 Program Enhancements

- Full-day kindergarten program – saved \$ on this program
- Early learning Spanish program for K-5
- Created 14 new high school courses (average 14 per class)
  - Journalism – DL with Mohonasen and Schoharie
  - Environmental Science
  - Senior Seminar
  - Construction Trades
  - Reading Lab
  - Writing Lab
  - Survey of American Law I
  - Survey of American Law II
  - French 6
  - Spanish 6
  - Film and Literature
  - Creative Writing
  - American History I
  - American History II

# 2009-10 Program Enhancements

- Finish last year's promise to incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century health care component at the high school
  - Life in the ER
  - Forensic Science

*No additional cost required*

# How Are We Doing?

- Rated 11<sup>th</sup> in the Capital District Business Review
- “In Good Standing” as defined by NYS
- Offer 17 AP or UHS courses (some rotate every year)
  - Accounting
  - Senior Math
  - Pre-Calculus and Calculus,
  - Math and Financial Applications
  - Computer Applications
  - Marketing
  - Business Law
  - Environmental Science
  - Spanish V
  - French V
  - Political Science
  - US History
  - AP World History
  - AP Psychology
  - AP Language
  - AP English Literature

# Unprecedented Economic Times

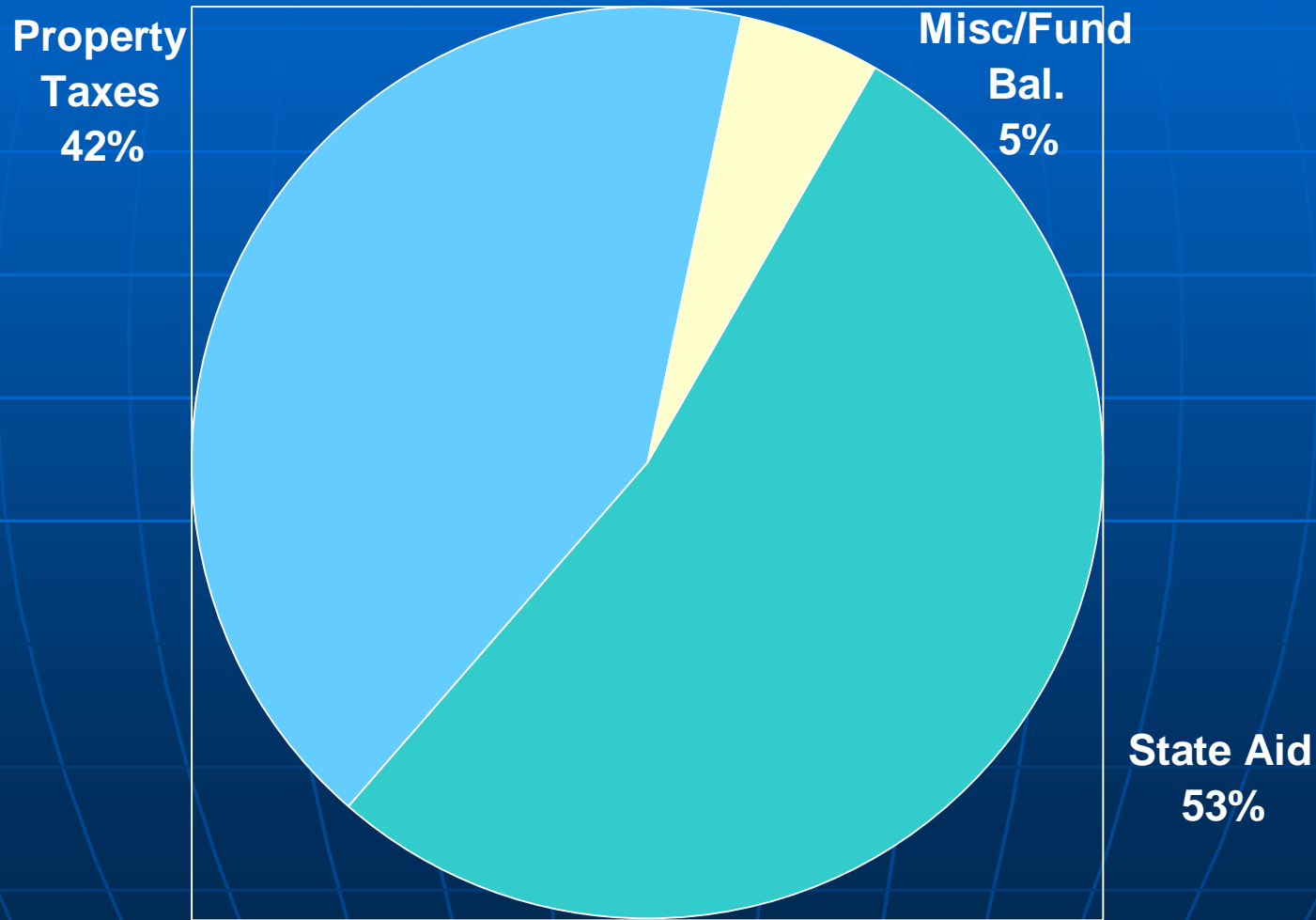
- Governor's proposal: Loss of \$829,392 in state aid
- Must make-up for reduction in state aid through higher property taxes or by cutting programs and/or services
- To get the tax rate increase down to 4% would require \$594,000 in cuts
- A lower tax rate increase would require additional cuts

# Unprecedented Economic Times

- Planning for the worst; hoping for the best
- The governor's proposal has not been approved yet
- The state budget is due April 1, but historically the deadline has not been met
- The federal stimulus package may provide additional revenue

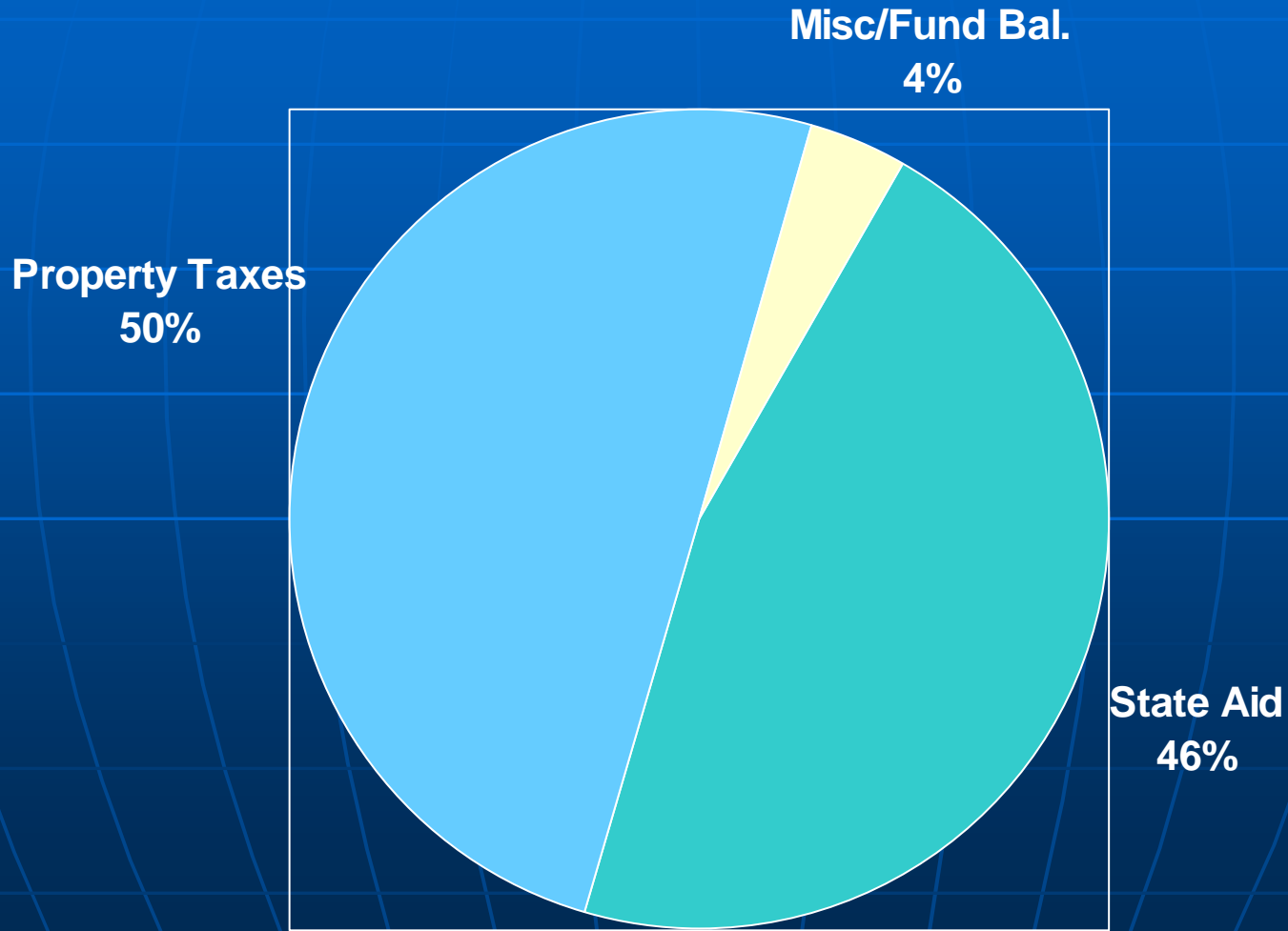
# 2008-09 Revenue:

Where does our money come from?

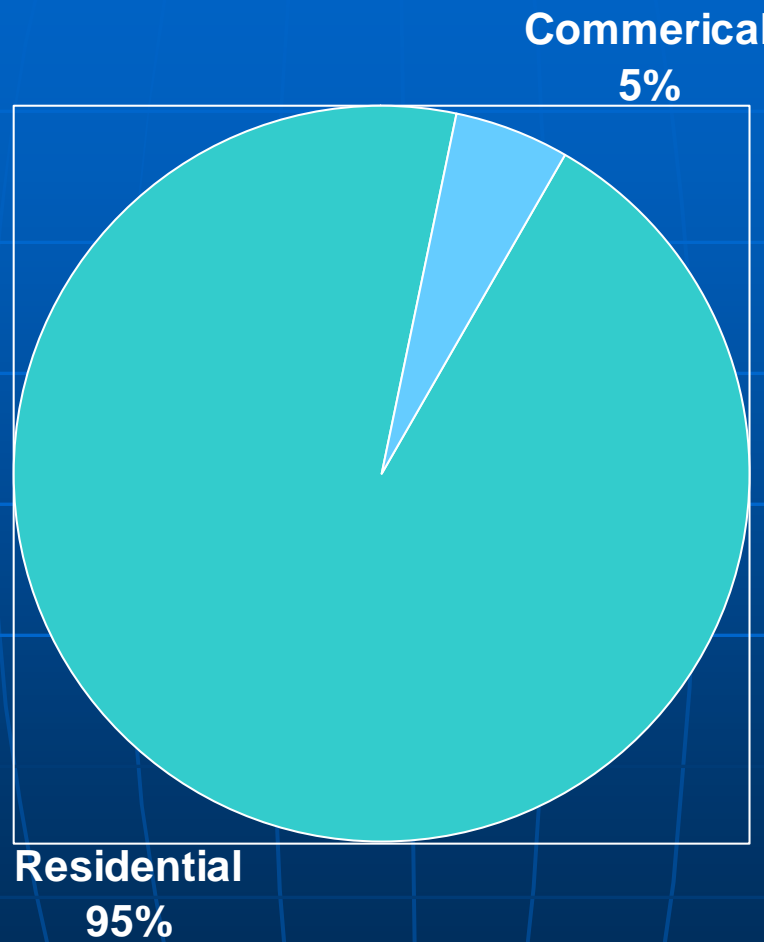


# 2009-10 Revenue

## Where does our money come from?



# Property Taxes



# Cost-Saving Initiatives In Place Already

- Reduction in out of district placements
- Reduced custodial overtime
- Review of district Business Office operations
  - Business Office – Reviewed procedures to identify any areas for cost-savings when billing Medicaid or state aid
- Participate in co-op purchase arrangements
- Shared services
  - Met with town and village officials to discuss areas for shared services
  - Met with district superintendent and area superintendents to share transportation services and bring students and sporting events closer to home
  - Enrolled in energy consortiums for better rates
  - Enrolled in health and workers compensation consortiums with area schools
  - Offer the PPO and Medicare Advantage Health Ins. Plans
  - Brought students back to district wherever appropriate to cut costs

# Cost-Saving Initiatives In Place Already

- Programmed copiers to automatically print double-sided
- Transitioning to more electronic communication to reduce paper, postage and ink cartridge costs
  - SNN
  - District Web site
- Met with departments/bldg. district wide to reduce costs
  - Removing small appliances from classrooms
  - Lowered heat in all buildings
  - Turn off lights when classrooms are not in use
  - Turn off all computers at night
  - Teachers pooling supplies by grade level where appropriate
  - Post forms to web site to send via e-mail
  - Bus drop offs quicker in the ES to reduce fuel
- Vo-Tech attendance down
  - 46 in 08-09
  - 24 in 09-10

# 2009-10 Budget Planning: Objectives

- Our students' futures begin now – they cannot wait until the economy rebounds
  - What long-term effects might the potential cuts have on students?
  - What will have the least impact on students?
  - All areas district wide will be reviewed
- Mandated programs cannot be touched
- What are the community's priorities/expectations?

# 2009-10 Budget Planning: Unknown Factors

- Teacher retirements
  - May create additional savings
- Federal Stimulus Package
  - May create additional revenue

# 2009-10 Potential Budget Reductions

- Reduce staffing by increasing class size
  - Eliminate ES librarian .....\$55,000
  - HS/MS
    - 1 PE teacher.....\$54,000
    - Eliminate 2 PT teachers (History and Science).....\$78,000
    - Reduce 2 FT teachers to PT (Math and English).....\$68,000
    - Eliminate 1 PT teacher aid.....\$12,000
  
- Other Savings
  - Reduce budget for equipment (trans and OM included)..... \$25,000
  - Reduce budget for teaching supplies ..... \$11,000
  - Reduce operations and maintenance (PT custodian and OT)..... \$26,000
  - Reduction in administrative salaries (\$42,000-already accounted for)

Total.....\$329,000  
Still Need \$265,000

# Other Possible Reductions

## Both Short and Long Range On-Going

- Reduce transportation costs (5 o'clock bus) \$17,400
- Reduce AIS summer school \$ 2,700
- New sports and new clubs will not be considered at this time
- Eliminate the automated sub service \$ 9,700
- Eliminate Student Agendas \$ 3,500
- Reduce sports tournaments, games, distance travelled and/or scrimmages \$3-4,000
- Field trip distance allowed shortened to specific miles \$ 1,000
- Offer district mailings to people via e-mail such as the quarterly newsletters \$ 1,000
- PPO Empire Blue Cross Plan  
(this would be a future on-going savings)
  - Employees may voluntarily opt-in to the PPO plan which currently exists
  - Savings if all employees switch to the PPO = \$167,000
  - All non-teachers who switch are entitled to a \$500 debit card to pay for additional co-pays or drug cost increases  
The District, in negotiations with the DTA has offered that each teacher employee would also get a \$500 debit card for switching to the PPO (the teachers union would have to agree to the card before we could give it to teachers.)
  - Even with the payment of the debit card, if every employee switched to the PPO plan, there would be a savings of approx. \$110,000

# We need your help!

- Hard choices have to be made, so it's imperative we hear from you
- We can't afford to argue, we need to support one another and work together to do what is best for the students.
- What are we missing?
- Do you have additional concerns or questions?

# Community Input Sought

- We want to hear what you have to say, so please volunteer your thoughts
- Please come to the microphone as your name is called
- Please stop when told the time is up so everyone can speak that wishes to do so

# Thank You!

- On behalf of the DCS Board of Education and myself, thank you for coming tonight. We know how precious your time is and we appreciate that you came out to help us do what is best for the children of our district.