
Pittsford Schools



Excellence Today and Tomorrow



ANNUAL REPORT 2005 - 2006

Excellence Today and Tomorrow

As an educational leader with uncompromising
commitment to and passion for excellence for students,
Pittsford Central Schools will deliver
quality programs and services that maximize
academic performance and personal development,
and provide for each child's future success.

*uncompromising
commitment
passion
for excellence
Pittsford Schools*



Strong Schools Make Strong Futures

Professional Learning Streamlined with Even Greater Student Focus

Pittsford Central School District has a long history of providing high quality, professional development with an emphasis on continuous learning. Building upon its 60-year tradition, the District is reviewing the professional development and first year induction programs to deepen and broaden the learning of the District's professional staff. As a direct benefit of these changes, student learning and progress will excel.

Changes to the programs will enable staff to better serve students. Professional learning will more strongly align with the District's and individual schools' action plans. Student performance data will be linked with staff training including more job-embedded opportunities. In addition, the new teacher induction program will be strengthened.

Using Data Analysis to Guide Student Achievement

The Pittsford District Leadership Team and the District Planning Team have been studying new methods of data analysis as a way to make better decisions at many levels within the District. These methods will also help the District identify root causes of problems as well as communicate and report results to the community. Most importantly, data assessments and analyses will be used to measure student performance in multiple quantitative and qualitative ways.

A comprehensive plan is being derived using several sets of data, such as:

- Demographics (i.e., enrollment, attendance, ethnicity, gender, staff experience and composition, mobility)
- Perceptions (i.e., of learning environment, values and beliefs, attitudes, observations)
- Student learning (i.e., standardized tests, teacher observations and abilities, authentic assessments)
- School processes (i.e., descriptions of school programs and processes)

For news, events, and information
Log onto www.PittsfordSchools.org

Pittsford

Welcome!

Welcome to the Pittsford Central School District annual report. This year we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the school district's centralization. In these pages, you will discover interesting historic facts about the District and learn about programs, accomplishments and national rankings for the District, as well as information about our 2005-2006 budget and an update on the Revitalization Project. If you would like more information, please visit our website at www.PittsfordSchools.org or call 267-1000.



Mary Alice Price
Superintendent of Schools

The assessment of these data will assist the District during budget planning and the development or revision of student learning programs. Continuous improvement continuums developed by a national expert will guide the progress and success of this plan.

New Courses Installed in Curriculum

Pittsford Central School District continually reviews and updates its curriculum offerings. During the 2005-2006 school year, five new courses were added at the high school level. These additions reflect the ever-changing educational needs of our students. The new courses are:

- Mass Media and Society, a 20-week intensive writing class for juniors and seniors that focuses on media literacy and law, reporting, writing, editing, graphic art, advertising and design.
- Film as Literature, which teaches students how to "read a film" and reviews major directors and trends in film history.
- AP English Language and Composition, which allows students to study various kinds of analytic and persuasive essays on nonliterary topics.
- Contemporary Issues, which addresses global issues of the 21st Century such as disease technology, human rights, globalization, population, food production and economic gaps.
- AP Environmental Science, which provides students with scientific principles, concepts and methodologies to better understand the interrelationships of the natural world.



Increasing Student Achievement

School Assessment: *How Do We Measure Up?*

Pittsford Schools is recognized nationally for educational excellence and for meeting the needs of a talented and diverse population. Students choose from 160 courses including Honors, Advanced Placement and Regents-level classes in all major academic areas. Students may also choose from a wide variety of electives including Digital Electronics, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Polyphonic Choir, Investment Management and Contemporary Crafts.



assessments in grades 4, 8, and 11; math assessments in grades 4, 8 and at the secondary level; science assessments in grades 4 and 8; and the graduation rate. Over the past four years, Pittsford students performed as follows:

- 90% of 4th graders demonstrated proficiency in ELA
- 96% of 4th graders demonstrated proficiency in math
- 97% of 4th graders demonstrated proficiency in science
- 77% of 8th graders demonstrated proficiency in ELA
- 90% of 8th graders demonstrated proficiency in math
- 99% of 11th graders demonstrated proficiency in ELA
- 98% of 12th graders demonstrated proficiency in math

Pittsford Among America's 100 Best High Schools

Newsweek magazine ranked Pittsford Mendon High School 58th and Sutherland High School 61st in its list of "Top 100 America's Best High Schools for 2006." Pittsford was recognized for its excellence in preparing students for higher-level work. *Newsweek's* "Best High Schools" list was determined by using a ratio of the number of Advance Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) tests taken by all students at a school in 2005, divided by the number of graduating seniors.



Class of 2006 Profile

- Graduates receiving Regents diplomas: 98%
- Graduates receiving Regents diplomas with Advanced Designation: 71%
- Advanced Placement Scholars: 270
- Students earning academic honor roll status: 40%
- Composite SAT score: 571 verbal; 587 math; 559 written
- Composite ACT score: 25.4 (national average is 21.1)

No Child Left Behind

The Pittsford Central School District and each Pittsford school meet or exceed New York State requirements under No Child Left Behind legislation, and are categorized as "School/District in Good Standing." Key measures are established by New York State in: English Language Arts (ELA)

For news, events, and information
Log onto www.PittsfordSchools.org



Alan Shaffer
President
Board of Education



Ray Brown
Vice President
Board of Education



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Success in Our Schools – Today and Tomorrow

Celebrating 60 Years of Excellence – 1946-2006

Although the first Pittsford school was built in 1794, centralization of the area schools did not take place until 1946 when small New York State school “districts” moved to consolidate. Records indicate that at the time of centralization, 520 students in grades K-12 attended Lincoln Avenue School in the newly created district.

Lincoln Avenue School was built in 1916 at a cost of \$67,000 and served as the District’s first school. The first “new” school built by the District was completed in March 1952 on the



Lomb property, which was purchased in 1946. You will now recognize this school as Pittsford Sutherland High School. It was originally built as a junior-senior high school for grades 7-12 at a cost of \$1,200,000.

Sixty years later, for the 2006-2007 school year, enrollments in the District’s nine schools total 6,100. Calkins Road Middle School—the first new school building in the District in 34 years—opened on September 5, 2006.

Building Our Future



New Sutherland High School entrance.

The 2006-2007 school year opened with the addition of the newly constructed Calkins Road Middle School. The school welcomed 6th, 7th and 8th graders on opening day, September 5, 2006. The ribbon was officially cut on the new Calkins Road Middle School on September 9, 2006.

Students returned to Sutherland High School in the fall to find many improvements and the completion of a number of new projects. Twenty-two classrooms were renovated with new ceilings, lighting, floors and paint, and the new foreign



Calkins Road Middle School ribbon cutting.

language computer lab was completed. The commons area also was completed and the courtyards were freshly cleaned, seeded and planted.

The new auditorium is ready and is in use while construction of the new library continues. (The library continues to be housed in its original location until the new facility opens.) This area is isolated from students’ instructional spaces so construction can progress during the day. A ribbon-cutting event for the building is planned for spring 2007.

Brent Kecskemety
Board Member



Jill Harter Lennox
Board Member



Kim McCluski
Board Member

Fiscal Accountability

The Value of a Financially Healthy District

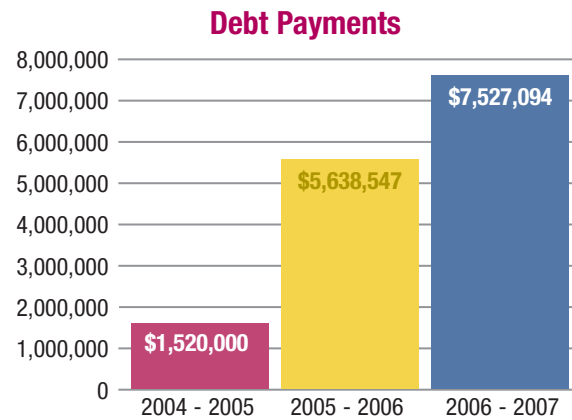
The Pittsford Central School District depends upon three major sources of revenue: state aid, county sales tax and local property tax. The 2005-2006 budget reflects increasing state aid and revenue from investments, limited growth in sales tax revenues, and limited property tax assessment base growth. The Board of Education works diligently to identify efficiencies and reductions in expenses, balancing the need to meet the educational needs of students with the need to minimize economic pressure on taxpayers.

Each year, approximately 67% of budget dollars go directly toward school programs.

For 2006-2007, proposed increases in expenditures are related to estimated increases in debt payments (e.g., for the Revitalization Project), required contributions to retirement systems, contractual agreements for salaries and benefits, and opening a new school building.

Looking Forward to Tomorrow

As the Revitalization Project continues in full swing in 2006-2007, the Pittsford Central School District will pay its second year of payments on debt for the voter-approved building project. The associated increase in debt payments is shown below.



Pittsford Central School District 2005-2006 Program and Service Budget

	2005-2006 Budget (\$)	% of Budget	2006-2007 Proposed Budget (\$)	% of Budget
Elementary, Middle and High School Programs	39,396,519	45.0	41,362,271	43.5
Special Education and Non-Public Programs	6,888,741	7.9	6,989,695	7.4
Technology, Professional Development, and Other Instructional Services	2,837,174	3.2	2,914,133	3.1
Transportation, Maintenance and Other Support Services	10,547,919	12.1	12,251,719	12.9
Central Administration and Board of Education	333,309	0.4	340,627	0.4
Debt Services, Insurance and Fringe Benefits*	27,379,357	31.4	31,073,141*	32.7
TOTAL	87,383,019	100.0	94,931,586	100.0

*The 2006-2007 projected budget includes the second year of payments on debt for the voter-approved building project.



Pittsford Central Schools Among Best True Value Tax Rates

The 2006-2007 school tax rate is \$21.94 per thousand. The true value tax rate for PCSD is ranked 14th lowest out of the 17 school districts in Monroe County. This signals a solid value for a nationally ranked education.



Alka Phatak
Board Member



Patricia Schwert
Board Member



Veronica Walker
School District Clerk

Collaborating with the Community

PTSA

The Pittsford Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and the PCSD have been longstanding partners in support of the education of their students. PTSA members serve on many important committees including the District Planning Team. The District Planning Team's charge is to continuously improve the quality of education in the Pittsford Central School District and the performance of all students.

The PTSA leadership team plays an active role in hiring committees that screen and interview PCSD employees, including positions at the highest level. The leadership of the PTSA also meets regularly with Superintendent Price to discuss topics of interest to parents and the school community.



Pittsford Municipality Partnership

In 2003, the Pittsford School District, Town and Village signed a formal collaboration agreement that built upon a history of partnership. This agree-

ment has since resulted in several joint projects including a shared fiber network. Recently, a grant was awarded to the three municipalities and the Pittsford Fire Department to implement a town-wide geographic information system (GIS), which will run over the fiber network.

The fiber network, which runs between the Pittsford Community Library and Sutherland High School, also enables the Town and the School District to explore future shared services in the information field.

Community Resource Database

Although the Community Resource Database has been in operation for several years now, a new effort has been launched to regenerate interest in the program. The Community Resource Database is a registry of school volunteers that is maintained by the Pittsford School District. This registry is for community members to volunteer their time and skills, and for educators to tap into their offerings.

Volunteers share skills or experiences in PCSD schools as presenters, classroom helpers, or providers of internship or mentoring experiences. A volunteer's career, travel, and personal accomplishments or interests offer a growth experience which benefits students.

Registration for the Community Resource Database is done online at the District website, www.pittsfordschools.org. (Click on "People," then "Community Resource Registration.") Volunteers are asked to provide a reference from a District employee, Parent Teacher Student Association member or Board of Education member. Each volunteer's registration information is reviewed by the District administration and the PTSA before it is activated in the system.

Foundation's Commemorative Brick Project

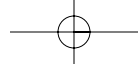
The Pittsford School Foundation is an independent fundraising and granting organization dedicated to the enrichment of the academic program of the Pittsford Central School District. Its major fund-raising effort is a commemorative brick project. Bricks are purchased as a way to recognize a student, family member, special educator or a friend. These bricks will be used to surface a new outdoor amphitheatre at Sutherland High School and a new meeting garden at Mendon High School. Proceeds will be used to enhance the educational goals of the Pittsford Central School District.

For information about purchasing a brick, please visit the Pittsford School Foundation website at www.PittsfordSF.org or call 234-8151.



FAST FACTS

At the time of centralization, 520 students in grades K-12 attended Lincoln Avenue School (now the Pittsford Recreation Center).



Pittsford Schools

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