

THE WATERVLIET CHRONICLE

MAY 2, 2011 ISSUE 4

‘VLIET NOT IMMUNE TO BUDGET WOES

Friday, April 1, was a very difficult day for Watervliet students and employees. It was on this day that we learned that the financial crisis that has plagued the nation and the state had very local consequences. As the Watervliet School District learned that there will be a drastic reduction in the amount of state funding next year (9.53% or nearly \$1.6 million), we came face-to-face with a harsh reality: our school may not be able to afford to keep all of its programs and teachers.

As teachers were being notified of their “fate,” rumors spread throughout the building. Students were confused, sad, angry, and filled with questions. Many of us left for the weekend uncertain about what Monday would be like.

What could we do? Could we protest? Was there any way that we could change what was happening? A facebook campaign called for a student walk-out Monday morning to show our

dissatisfaction with what was happening around us.

Monday morning, Mr. Emerson made an announcement to the whole school indicating that the teachers, principals, and superintendent were all working together to find “the best solution possible” to this challenge. He also indicated that a student walk-out would do nothing to help our cause. It wasn’t the school district’s fault. This problem came from Albany. Dr. Padalino echoed this message after school in a meeting with the student council. The state is cutting our funding and we need to find “more creative” ways to manage our money.

By the end of the week, we were told that many, if not all, of the teachers’ jobs would be saved. What happened over the course of a few days to make such a change?

According to the Watervliet website, the district is planning to reduce spending by 2.3% and increase taxes by 2.0%. In addition, the

administrative staff has agreed to a pay freeze, the teachers agreed to concessions with health care costs, and \$800,000 is being used from the district’s fund balance. The fund balance is like the school’s emergency savings account.

Dr. Padalino expressed his amazement at how everyone came together so quickly to act in a manner that is in the best interests of our schools. “Everyone worked together to balance this budget...bus drivers, teachers, administrators...”

Now the budget must pass a vote by the tax-payers. Watervliet residents will have the opportunity to vote on this budget on Tuesday, May 17.

INSIDE:

- *Senior Survey results*
- *Editorial: Don’t forget how you felt...*
- *Dear Phoebe*
- *Summer Movie Preview*

May Schedule

- 5/10 - Blood Drive
- 5/12 - Mock DWI Crash
- 5/12 - Jr. Night
- 5/13 - Interim Period Ends
- 5/14 - Jr/Sr Prom
- 5/17 - School Budget Vote
- 5/19 - Spring Concert
- 5/24 - National Junior Honor Society Induction
- 5/26 - National Honor Society Induction
- 5/30 - Memorial Day: No School

SENIORS PREPARE FOR GRADUATION

As spring begins, so does the countdown to graduation. The senior class is counting the days, class periods, hours, and minutes until they can bid farewell to high school and move on to the next step in their lives. Recently, the seniors were asked to complete a survey that asked about their experiences here at W.H.S. What were the positives and negatives? What words of wisdom can they share now that they've reached the end? Here are the results:

What has been your greatest accomplishment/achievement in high school?

- "Getting into the electrical union and graduating on time." - Nick Sherlock
- "Being selected as a captain of the wrestling team." - Mike McNally
- "Receiving the Rensselear Medalist Award." - Jacqueline Torrisi
- "Having my artwork sent to two Art shows." - Andrea Cole
- "Being selected as Most Improved Player and Most Athletic in the senior class." - Kaitlin Lebarge
- "Learning how to control my behavior and improve my grades." - Michele Rodriguez
- "Not giving up and getting my diploma." - Richard Romero
- "As student council president, sitting with the Board of Education." - Meagan Collett
- "Staying on track with all of my work...no matter what." - Angela Quinliven
- "Being elected Student Council President." - Shaunice Williams

What is one thing you regret about your time in high school?

- "Worrying more about others than getting my work done." - Nicole Loomis
- "Not taking my classes seriously in 9th and 10th grade." - Kristin Skelly
- "Not cherishing every moment." - Allie Capone
- "Not getting involved in clubs and sports." - Dynesha Walker
- "Wasting my time worrying about what others think of me." - Meaghan Hogan
- "I don't regret anything. We all learn from our mistakes." - Erika Nolin
- "Being too shy." - Melenee DesForge
- "Not going to more school events." - Shannen Mazur
- "Not pushing myself to my potential." - Ronald Evans
- "Not being as social." - Justin Oravsky

Continued...

What will be your fondest memory of W.H.S.?

- "Playing on the football team with some of my closest friends." - Nick Chiorgno
- "Drama Club." - Katie Lynch
- "Homecoming, Prom...Dancing the night away with my friends." - Aminika Galusha
- "Winning four Class B Titles in basketball." - Kristin Skelly
- "Being a part of Delta Force and Jazz Band. These experiences shaped my personality." - Jacqueline Torrissi
- "Factory day in Mr. Satterlee's class." - Andrea Cole
- "Omnikin with Coach Strand." - Samantha Kowalewski
- "Winning a Section 2 Championship." - Dan Nittinger
- "When Toni and I got in trouble for leaving during study hall." - Chelsea O'Neil

What is one class that you would recommend all students take? Why?

- "Mr. Facin's classes because he's a fun teacher to learn from." - James Lee
- "Food and Nutrition because we get to eat." - Chris Laroche
- "CEIP because the internships are fun and helpful." - Melissa McConkey
- "Anything Ms. Thouin is teaching." - Brittney Carroll
- "Auto Cad because the teacher is great and we get college credit." - Kevin Jones
- "Business with Ms. Thouin because we learn how to conduct ourselves in a professional environment." - Bobby Wheatley
- "Gym because we all need to stay in shape." - James Lockett
- "Health because we learn about things that we actually need." - Allie Valente
- "Physics because Mr. Parisi always makes it interesting." - Justin Oravsky
- "Entertainment Marketing because it gives you a fun sense of the real world." - Angela Quinliven
- "Energy Systems is an interesting, hands-on course." - Ronald Evans
- "The parenting class because you get to learn great ways to parent your kids and how to be a better parent." - Tiffany Crownover

What is the greatest lesson you've learned in high school? From whom?

- "My mom taught me to always take pride in my work." - Destiny Moshier
- "When in doubt, join the circus." - Shelby Foster
- "I've learned to be proud of who I am and to believe in myself." - Niki Delany
- "What you do in the beginning will affect you in the end." - Michael "Smallz" Tomlinson
- "Experience has taught me that hard work doesn't go unnoticed." - Dynesha Walker
- "Mrs. Harris taught me to never give up." - Brandi Remillard
- "Ms. Sofrone taught me that if you don't try, you should slap your face with your feet." - Andrea Cole
- "I've learned that, no matter what, life goes on." - Anthony DeGeorge

What advice would you give to next year's senior class?

"Be organized and try to have more fun together as a class." - Mackenzie Williams

"Finish Strong." - Sean Daley

"Avoid Senioritis." - Brett Holland

"It's your time to be noticed. Make sure you know what you want to be noticed for." - Samantha Kowalewski

"Don't take the easy way out." - Solomia Myshchuk

"Have fun and avoid the DRAMA." - Robert Graham

"Get involved in everything you can." - Katie Plunkett

"Be a leader. Set a good example for the younger kids." - Shelbie Hughes

"Don't care about what others think...it's ok to be weird and crazy." - Melissa McConkey

"Enjoy it, because it goes by quickly." - Justin Oravsky

Which teacher has been the most influential in your years at W.H.S.? Why/how?

"Mr. Parisi, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Snyder have helped to make my time here enjoyable and successful. They have prepared me for life after high school." - Andrew Mustico

"Mr. Emerson because he is always willing to give good advice about life and what the real world is going to be like. He really looks out for his student." - Kristin Skelly

"Mr. Abate, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Facin, Mrs. Ramsay, and Mr. Emerson have never given up on me. They always tell me that I can do better." - Chris Laroche

"Mr. Parisi. I love the way he teaches, he is passionate about what he teaches and he gives great life lessons." - Toni DelGiacco

"Mrs. Lavick has shown me the greatness of other people and has pushed me to excel artistically." - Samantha Kowalewski

"Mrs. Spence and Mrs. Lavick because art is my passion and they always encourage me." - Katie Lynch

"Mr. Snyder because he helped me through my struggles and made learning fun again." - Destiny Moshier

"Mr. Emerson taught me a lot about social studies, but much more about life. Ms. Thouin taught me how to be professional."

- Richard Romero

"Mr. Satterlee, Mr. Echt, Mr. Emerson, Ms. Thouin, Mr. Snyder, Ms. Cahill...Many of my teachers were just amazing."

- Aminika Galusha

If you could, what would you change about W.H.S.? Why

"Dress code, cell phones, senior privileges, lunch." - Toni DelGiacco

"Seniors should be able to sign in and out during study halls...We should be allowed to have our iPods." - Chelsea O'Neil

"Students' attitudes." - Katelynn Solini

"More Girls." - Mike McNally

"More School Spirit." - Mackenzie Williams

"More electives and class choices." - Katie Plunkett

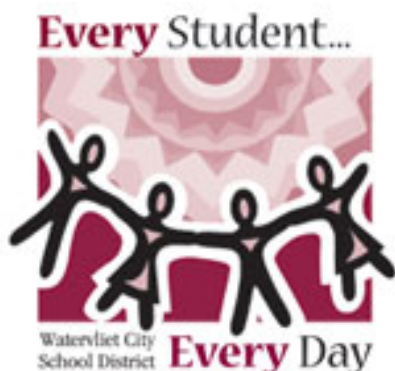
"More school events because that is where the memories are made." - Nick Chiorgno

"I wish we had more social events so the class could really bond and everyone would feel welcome." - Shaunice Williams

WATERVLIIET JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

1245 Hillside Drive
Watervliet, NY
12189

629-3200
Advisor: Mr. Snyder
msnyder@vliet.neric.org
www.watervlietcityschools.org



EDITORIAL

Don't Forget How You Felt...

We were in shock. We were mad. We were visibly shaken. Each of us had a strong reaction once we heard the news that some of our teachers might not be with us next year. We hugged. We cried. We punched lockers...

...Wait a minute. Why did we react this way? These are our teachers. These are the same people who give us homework that we don't want to do; who take our cell phones and iPods; who call our parents and write our referrals. We blame them for our problems; we hate them for the amount of work they make us do.

But, for a brief moment, we imagined our world without them. We realized how important their encouragement and guidance is. We realized that we don't want to learn from anyone else. We understood that, for all of the headaches we give each other, we actually really like our teachers.

In my opinion, no greater respect was shown to our teachers than when Mr. Emerson made his Monday morning announcement. It seemed like the entire school stood still. No one talked over the announcement. Students in the halls stood still. We all knew of the importance of what he was telling us.

It is an old cliché (and a bad song) that says, "You don't know what you've got until it's gone." Perhaps this is what we were experiencing.

Summer Movie Releases

DEAR PHOEBE

Dear Phoebe,

The other day, I got caught in a lie. I don't want to give too many details, but I lied to my friends about being somewhere when I wasn't. I was actually with one of my friend's boyfriend. Now no one will speak to me. How can I get my friends to like me again?

-Caught in the Act

Dear CITA,

Wow, have you thought of changing schools? Seriously, you were with your

friend's bf? That breaks friendship rule number 1. You should never be interested in you friend's guy, even after they break up. Ok, now it's time for major apologizing and possibly a little "sucking up." It is going to take a long time to fix this friendship, but if you are truly sorry, then it can be done. Don't expect this to be fixed overnight, though. Remember that you were the one who messed up and you will be the one that will need to make this right

Dear Phoebe is an advice column for all students. In each edition of the Chronicle, one question will be selected and answered. To submit your questions, write them down and place them in the box in room 203.

Every summer, Hollywood releases its big blockbusters; the movies that have been anticipated for months and, sometimes, years. With summer just around the corner, here is a list of the movies we are most looking forward to seeing:

May 20: *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*

May 26: *The Hangover 2, Kung Fu Panda 2*

June 3: *Love, Wedding, Marriage*

June 17: *Green Lantern*

June 24: *Cars 2, Bad Teacher*

July 1: *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*

July 15: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, part 2*

July 22: *Captain America: The First Avenger, Friends With Benefits*

July 29: *The Smurfs, The Devil's Double*

August 5: *Dirty Girl, Final Destination 5*

August 12: *Conan the Barbarian 3D, Fright Night*

August 26: *Apollo 18*