

Howell Township Education Association  
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Friends, Colleagues, Citizens,

It is budget time again, the time of year when the HTEA (Howell Township Education Association) writes asking you to vote in the upcoming school board election. This year, it is crucial that all of us get out and support the budget so the elementary and middle schools of Howell Township may continue to function at the level of excellence currently enjoyed. If we do not vote YES, there will be a budget anyway; it just won't be the one we need to function in top form. Some members of the township council have indicated they may slash funding by millions of dollars.

Howell is facing an educational crisis The Board of Education is faced with tough economic decisions...close school(s), increase class size, provide fewer services, and in the end upset parents who are normally our greatest advocates.

The Board is exploring all possible options and alternatives; but, with the current economic conditions those choices are at best unsavory. Some areas under BOE consideration for cuts are courtesy busing, the number of nursing staff serving the district, building administration staff, teachers and counselors, support staff, and those extra-curricular activities left intact after the last budget.

We need you to help us pass the budget. Get out and vote YES on April 21<sup>st</sup>. You are not only voting to save our schools, you are voting to secure the future. I have enclosed an absentee ballot application for your convenience and I urge you to complete it and then vote when your ballot arrives. Let your voice be heard. Vote YES!

Thank you for your anticipated support.

William J. O'Brien, President HTEA

Heather Van Vliet, VP2, PRIDE Chair