

Press Release

School District of New Holstein

Contact: Bill Van Meer, District Administrator

New Holstein administrators will present voters with a balanced budget—the result of cutting over \$560,000 from expenses due to a reduction in revenues generated through property taxes and state aid—at the September 6, 2011 annual meeting.

Superintendent Bill Van Meer said a good portion of the reduction came through reduction in staff and increased contributions by employees to health insurance costs as well as retirement contributions.

Teachers, administrators and support staff are contributing 50% of their annual contribution toward the Wisconsin Retirement System. The district also is requiring a 12% contribution to health insurance premiums which mirrors the intent of the law. These two things combined with a switch of the health insurance carrier from WEA Trust to WCA Health Trust will contribute to the reduction by \$470,000 alone.

New Holstein's proposed \$11.6 million budget is down 6 percent from last year. The proposed tax levy also drops 0.16 percent to \$6.1 million. The anticipated tax rate drops to \$9.14 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

“Retirements and position cuts, including a reading specialist, business education teacher, portions of positions in various areas at the high school level and 1 position at the elementary level as well as federal stimulus money also contributed to the balanced budget”, Van Meer said. An administrative position also was eliminated after Doug Olig, high school assistant principal left for a new job.

"We are absorbing some of those duties and hiring a part-time dean of students at a reduced cost," according to Van Meer.

The school board is looking at all options in dealing with the continued budget crunch the entire state is experiencing. “We are trying to remain optimistic that in 2012-13 we will be able to maintain programs and services, however, with less and less revenue it is going to be difficult,” Van Meer commented.