

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the North Syracuse Central School District

Volume 27 No. 4

April 2011

## Budget Vote Information

### Annual Public Hearing for the Budget

Tuesday, May 3, 2011  
7:00 p.m.

Administrative Office Building  
5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

### Annual Election

Tuesday, May 17, 2011  
9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### Polling Places

For residents living  
NORTH of Route 481:

Cicero Elementary School  
Route 31  
Cicero, NY 13039

For residents living  
SOUTH of Route 481:

Administrative Office Building  
5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

## 2011-2012 Budget Information

### A Message from Pat V. Carbone, President of the Board of Education

The Board of Education is responsible for developing a school budget that provides all of our students with the resources to meet the rigorous state standards. We are also responsible for keeping the tax rates as low as possible for the residents of our community. Balancing these priorities continues to challenge us and this year is no exception. This year is especially difficult because of the depressed economic environment.

For the third year in a row, the District has seen a reduction in State Aid. As a result, the Board of Education has reduced approximately 67 positions in the proposed budget. Over the past two years, the Board of Education has reduced an additional 135 positions.

The Board of Education has also negotiated contracts with most of the unions spreading pay increases over a two-year period and gained health insurance concessions of approximately \$1,200,000. However, we have maintained a quality educational program for our students in our efforts to be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers.

We are proposing a \$136,601,471 budget on the May 17<sup>th</sup> ballot. The proposed budget is \$1,807,618 less than the 2009-2010 budget.



**Pat V. Carbone,**  
President of the Board of Education

The proposed budget results in an estimated tax increase of 5.2 percent in Cicero, in Clay, and in Salina.

If you have any questions, or if you would like a line-item copy of the budget or additional information, please call the Superintendent of Schools, Jerome F. Melvin, at 218-2151.

The Board of Education would appreciate it if you could take a few extra minutes as you exit the polls on May 17<sup>th</sup> to complete a short exit poll concerning school issues. As your elected representatives, we want to know your comments and concerns regarding school district issues and we look forward to hearing from you.

# The 2011-2012 School Budget



Dear Residents,

The proposed 2011-2012 North Syracuse Central School District budget would result in an estimated 5.2 percent tax rate increase if approved by

school district residents on

May 17, 2011. The budget itself is up  $\frac{8}{10}$ th of one percent, or \$1,134,411 more than 2010-2011. The preliminary budget is \$1,807,618 less than the 2009-2010 school budget of \$138,409,089.

A reduction of \$8.9 million in state aid and a preliminary budget increase of \$6,424,122 contributed to an initial shortfall of \$15,324,122 in February. For the third consecutive year, the North Syracuse Central School District experienced the very worst of a weak state and national economy as indicated by a major reduction in state aid. Although \$1.7 million of the original \$8.9 state aid cut was restored, the School District still lost \$7.2 million in state aid for 2011-2012, bringing the total three year loss in Foundation Aid to \$19.7 million.

Aware of the financial constraints facing community residents, the preliminary budget was reduced by approximately \$5,289,711 through significant program and staff reductions and economies. Consequently, it has been necessary to eliminate 67.15 positions throughout the School District. This brings the reduction to approximately 200 positions, including administrative, instructional, and support personnel, that have been eliminated during the past three years. Regrettably, forty-five staff members will be laid-off, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

At the Board's insistence, for the most part, the integrity of the academic program has been maintained, though class size has increased, especially at the secondary level. Major reductions in non-instructional areas could not offset the need for instructional program reductions and the loss of teaching positions.

Contributing to the less than one percent budget increase are the following:

- Employee Benefits - \$1,080,404 increase due to a 6.5% increase in health

insurance rates, 28% increase in Teacher Retirement System rates, 39% increase in Employee Retirement System rates, and need to fund benefits for those positions formerly paid for by the Federal Stimulus grants (Stabilization Funds) which expire June 30, 2011;

- BOCES Services - \$573,932 increase due to participation in Special Education Work-Study program and a higher number of seriously disabled students in BOCES programs;
- Debt Service (Principal and Interest) - \$174,422 increase due to Smith Road Elementary School renovation project – totally offset by New York State building aid and debt service reserve funds;
- Fuel for Vehicles - \$150,735 increase due to higher costs for bus fuel;
- Tuition costs to New York State Institutions and Charter Schools - \$105,000 increase due to additional North Syracuse residents attending charter schools.

There are four significant areas of the budget that decreased. They are:

- Salaries - \$456,076 decrease due to the elimination of 67.15 positions and staff salary concessions;
- Utilities - \$200,000 decrease due to coordinated energy reduction program that has proven effective at all levels;
- General Supplies - \$186,363 decrease due to reduction in supplies district-wide;
- Other Contracts - \$71,070 decrease for payments to public schools for health services for North Syracuse Central School District residents attending private schools in those communities.

A year ago in this Budget Message, I wrote that the School District would lose \$2.9 million in Federal Stimulus grants, effective June 30, 2011. Those funds were provided to school districts during the last two years to prevent major staff layoffs. The loss of those funds, along with continued reductions in state aid, has been the major cause of staff layoffs and a higher tax rate increase. Also, I would be remiss if I did not point out that the School District will lose approximately \$3.1 million

in Federal Jobs Fund money which expires June 30, 2012. Again, the threat of continued state aid reductions, as well as the loss of the Jobs Fund money, places added emphasis on budget planning and allocation of dwindling resources during the next budget cycle, 2012-2013.

As is the School Board's practice, in order to give residents a clear understanding of the school budget, a multi-page program budget will be available at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Hearing. This document describes each program, along with costs, program objectives, and accomplishments. If you have any questions relative to the budget, or any topic for that matter, please call me at 218-2151.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Jerome F. Melvin, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

## North Syracuse Central School District

### District Information

#### Board of Education

Pat Carbone, *President*

Toni 'Lyn Brauchle, *Vice President*

Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton

Robert Crabtree

Sandra M. DiBianco

George Harrington

Scot McClintock

Jacqueline Owens

Patrick J. Svoboda

Connie Gibson, *District Clerk*

#### Superintendent

Jerome F. Melvin, Ph.D.

#### Administration

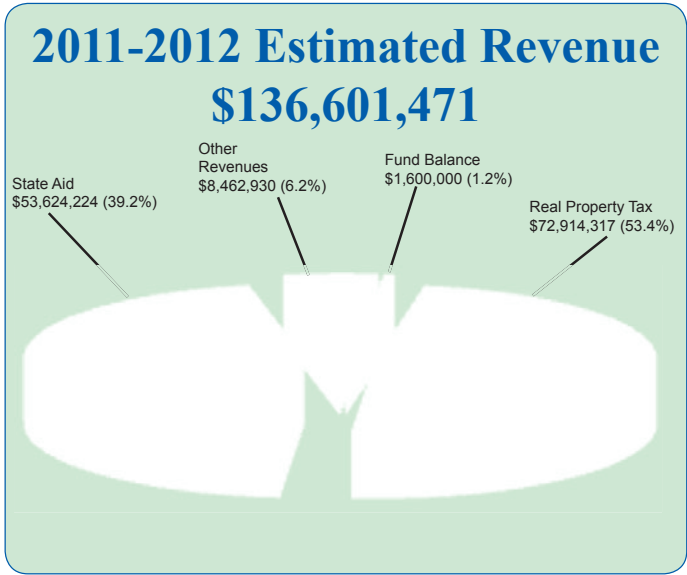
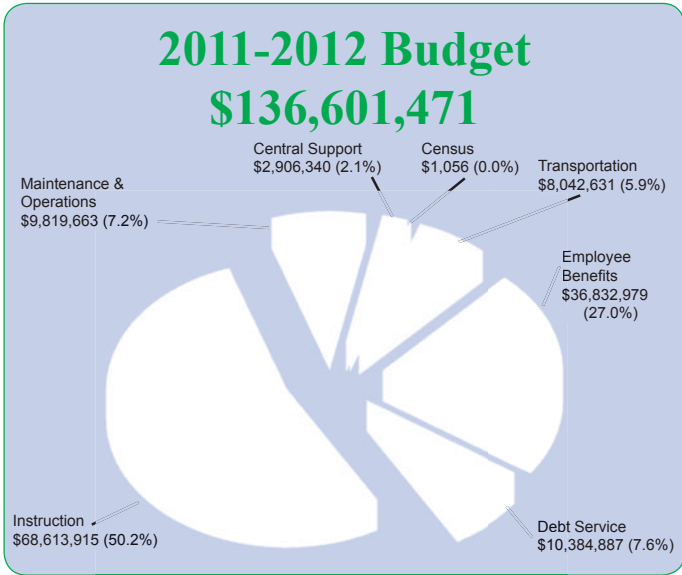
Stanley Finkle, *Assistant*

*Superintendent for Instruction*

Wayne D. Bleau, *Assistant*

*Superintendent for Management*

[www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org)



## North Syracuse Central School District Budget Notice

### Overall Budget Proposal

|  | Budget Adopted for the 2010-11 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2011-12 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2011-12 School Year |
|--|--|---|--|
| Total budgeted amount  | \$135,467,060                              | \$136,601,471                               | \$136,584,371                                  |
| Increase/decrease for the 2011 school year                     | -\$2,942,029                               | \$1,134,411                                 | \$1,117,311                                    |
| % increase/decrease in each proposed budget                    | -2.1%                                      | 8/10 <sup>th</sup> of 1%                    | 8/10 <sup>th</sup> of 1%                       |
| Change in the consumer price index                             | - 0.4%                                     | 1.6%  | 1.6%   |
| Resulting estimated property tax levy for the 2011 school year | \$69,457,316                               | \$72,914,317                                | \$72,897,217                                   |
| Administrative component                                       | \$10,363,898                               | \$10,359,190                                | \$10,342,090                                   |
| Program component  | \$102,860,879                              | \$104,451,784                               | \$104,451,784                                  |
| Capital component  | \$22,242,283                               | \$21,790,497                                | \$21,790,497                                   |
| Total  | \$135,467,060                              | \$136,601,471                               | \$136,584,371                                  |

### Basic STAR Exemption Impact

|                            | Budget Adopted for the 2010-11 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2011-12 School Year |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Basic STAR tax savings     | \$618                                      | \$630                                       |
| School tax increase        | \$56                                       | \$108                                       |
| Net Basic STAR tax savings | \$562                                      | \$522                                       |

Estimated Basic STAR\* Exemption Savings based on a hypothetical home within the School District with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)

\* The basic school tax relief (STAR exemption as authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law).

### Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption - Based on Income

| Exemption | 2011 Income |
|-----------|-------------|
| 50%       | \$29,000    |
| 45%       | \$30,000    |
| 40%       | \$31,000    |
| 35%       | \$32,000    |
| 30%       | \$32,900    |

| Exemption | 2011 Income |
|-----------|-------------|
| 25%       | \$33,800    |
| 20%       | \$34,700    |
| 15%       | \$35,600    |
| 10%       | \$36,500    |
| 5%        | \$37,400    |

# Proposed Budget for 2011-2012

**Program Component** – The program component represents the largest portion and focal point of our budget. Items contained here represent the “heart” of any educational system. The component represents 76% of the total budget. Included are all instructional expenses including regular instruction, education of the disabled, occupational education, curriculum and staff development, and summer school. Also included are pupil services such as health, guidance, library, co-curricular, athletics and transportation. Associated fringe benefit expenses, legal and community service expenses are also included.

|                        | 2010-2011            | 2011-2012            | \$ Change          | % Change    |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Regular Instruction    | \$39,787,804         | \$39,216,639         | -\$571,165         | -1.4%       |
| Special School Program | 13,388,065           | 14,742,624           | 1,354,559          | 10.1%       |
| Student Services       | 9,631,548            | 9,333,831            | -297,717           | -3.1%       |
| In-Service Training    | 428,992              | 354,912              | -74,080            | -17.3%      |
| Legal                  | 79,800               | 79,800               | 0                  | 0.0%        |
| Transportation         | 7,995,781            | 8,042,632            | 46,851             | 0.6%        |
| Employee Benefits      | 31,548,889           | 32,681,346           | 1,132,457          | 3.6%        |
| <b>Program Total</b>   | <b>\$102,860,879</b> | <b>\$104,451,784</b> | <b>\$1,590,905</b> | <b>1.5%</b> |

**Capital Component** – The capital component includes expenses for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. Also included are school bus purchases, building renovations costs, property tax refunds and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in these functions.

|                                | 2010-2011           | 2011-2012           | \$ Change         | % Change     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Operation/Maintenance of Plant | \$10,213,987        | \$9,733,138         | -\$480,849        | -4.7%        |
| Central Support                | 120,000             | 120,000             | 0                 | 0.0%         |
| Employee Benefits              | 1,697,831           | 1,552,473           | -145,358          | -8.6%        |
| Debt Service                   | 10,210,465          | 10,384,887          | 174,422           | 1.7%         |
| <b>Capital Total</b>           | <b>\$22,242,283</b> | <b>\$21,790,497</b> | <b>-\$451,786</b> | <b>-2.0%</b> |

**Administrative Component** – The administrative component includes expenses for the Board of Education, central administration, instructional supervision, curriculum development, legal services, central data processing, printing, mailing and employee benefits attributable to salaries included in these functions.

|                               | 2010-2011           | 2011-2012           | \$ Change       | % Change    |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Board of Education            | \$95,770            | \$95,933            | \$163           | 0.2%        |
| Central Administration        | 1,672,241           | 1,629,351           | -42,890         | -2.6%       |
| Central Support               | 1,198,172           | 1,204,367           | 6,195           | 0.5%        |
| Supervision/Staff Development | 4,890,801           | 4,829,322           | -61,479         | -1.3%       |
| Census                        | 1,056               | 1,056               | 0               | 0.0%        |
| Employee Benefits             | 2,505,858           | 2,599,161           | 93,303          | 3.7%        |
| <b>Administrative Total</b>   | <b>\$10,363,898</b> | <b>\$10,359,190</b> | <b>-\$4,708</b> | <b>0.0%</b> |

|                     |                      |                      |                    |             |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Budget</b> | <b>\$135,467,060</b> | <b>\$136,601,471</b> | <b>\$1,134,411</b> | <b>0.8%</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|

# School Board Candidate Biographies

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the North Syracuse Central School District. The board is composed of nine members who are elected by district voters to three-year terms. Members receive no salary for serving on the Board. The terms of three board members expire each year on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote. New York State law does not limit the number of terms a board member may serve. To run for board membership, you must be a resident of the District for more than one year and have your name placed on the ballot by having a petition signed by eligible voters and filed with the District Clerk within a specified time. This year, there are four candidates running for three vacant seats due to expiration of the terms. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms (from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014).

## Pat V. Carbone



Pat V. Carbone resides with his wife and two children at 405 Leroy Road in Cicero, and is a 1976 graduate of Henninger High School in Syracuse.

Pat has a daughter who graduated from the College of St. Rose, and is

currently attending NYU to complete a post graduate certification. Pat also has a daughter attending Canisius College in Buffalo. Both daughters attended Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Carbone received a Bachelors Degree in Political Science with a minor concentration in Accounting from LeMoyne College, and is presently employed as a Territory Manager and Commercial Loan Officer for the Liverpool, North Syracuse, and Cicero branches of Solvay Bank.

He has been a member of the Board of Education for the past 18 years and has served on the Board of Education's Policy Committee, Legislative Committee, Audit Committee and Executive Committee, the Career Education Advisory Council and has served as President of the Board of Education since May 1996.

He has served as an officer of the North Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, and was previously President of the North Syracuse Rotary Club. Carbone currently serves on the Board of the Onondaga Madison School Boards Association, is a member of New York State School Boards Association, and is the past Treasurer of North Syracuse Cemetery Association.

Carbone believes that the key to effecting fair change,

and having a true impact on the decision making process, is through direct involvement. In these financially challenging times we must combine all of our talents and ideas to collectively formulate policy that benefits the district, the district's employees, the community, and most importantly, the students.

## George Harrington



George Harrington resides in North Syracuse with his wife

Denise. Harrington's three children, Sara, George and Laura also attended and graduated from the North Syracuse Central School District.

Harrington is employed by Precision Systems Manufacturing as a Technical Sales Engineer.

Harrington has been active in the various schools as a member of the Parent-Teacher Organizations and Booster Clubs and is currently a member of the North Syracuse Board of Education. Harrington also serves as a director at the North Syracuse Cemetery Association.

Harrington feels that with the children being our future, that by participating on the School Board, he can help achieve the visions of the district's students, teachers and community.

## Scot McClintock



Scot McClintock has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for thirty-four years. He resides in the Town of Clay at 7740 Japine Drive with his wife Lori, a second grade teacher at Allen Road. Daughter Sara is a speech pathologist in Boston; daughter Holly is a registered nurse at Upstate; and daughter Lindsay is an Associate Account Services Specialist for Partners in Health Systems. All three daughters have benefited greatly from the district's fine academic programs and a girl's cross country and track program with the emphasis on each athlete enjoying success through hard work.

McClintock graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in 1970. He completed a BS in Civil Engineering in 1974 and a Masters of Engineering in 1975 from Cornell University. A licensed Professional Engineer and Certified Value Specialist, he is the head of Value Management for Faithful+Gould, applying the concepts of Value Management to provide essential functions of major projects or programs at the minimum life cycle cost.

McClintock serves as the Board representative on the Hancock Field Development Board. He has used his knowledge of the District's facility needs and Value Management techniques over his eighteen years on the board to help the Board of Education make necessary, but cost-effective, decisions. McClintock's goal of being part of a successful referendum to renovate our school facilities has been met eight times. He has led seven Value Management workshops on the District's technology plan, and the renovation plans for Cicero-North Syracuse High School; Allen Road, Roxboro Road, and Smith Road Elementary Schools; and both Gillette Road and Roxboro Road Middle Schools resulting in savings of nearly \$8 million. He also recognizes the need to continually improve communication between

the Board of Education and the taxpayers so the community can understand and support Board recommendations and budgets.

As a taxpayer, McClintock is proud of the District, but concerned about improving our student's academic performance while state aid is continually threatened by the economy and New York State politics. He also believes that the District, meaning taxpayers, students, parents, administrators, teachers, and the Board of Education, must work together to solve these problems and many others. He requests your support so he can continue to work for you on your Board of Education. As said by Irish Poet William Butler Yeats: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

## Michael Mirizio



Michael Mirizio is a 2010 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School and is now enrolled at Le Moyne College; he is studying Political Science and Pre-Law. Michael has been involved with many district activities and clubs for many years, and currently continues to volunteer his time. He has served as the President of the North Syracuse Junior High Tech Crew and has now been appointed an advisor for the club. He has brought many advances for the shows and performances in the district. Michael has received numerous awards and achievements throughout his school career, which include multiple Optimist Awards and numerous Outstanding Character and Achievement Awards. Michael also received the Andrew Cuomo CCC Award for most likely to succeed in his class.

Michael is currently employed with Le Moyne College on the Student Technology Help Desk, as well as the North Syracuse Central School District under Technology Director, Christopher Nelson. He also

*Continued on following page*

works part time at Sacred Heart Church in Cicero in their technology division as well as volunteering at church events.

Michael is the son of Anthony and Sharon Mirizio who reside in Cicero, NY. Michael has attended school in this district since kindergarten. He has one sister, Maria, who attends Gillette Road Middle School and

one brother, Stephen, who attends C-NS High School.

Michael feels that now, more than ever, younger people and opinions are needed on district school boards. As someone who just graduated, he feels that his inside-out look on the schools can be more than beneficial to the school board.

# 2011-2012 Budget Vote Information

## Annual Public Hearing for the Budget

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.  
Administrative Office Building  
5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

## Annual Election

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 (9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

## Polling Places

For residents living NORTH of Route 481:  
Cicero Elementary School - Route 31 in Cicero,  
NY 13039

For residents living SOUTH of Route 481:  
Administrative Office Building - 5355 West Taft  
Road in North Syracuse, NY 13212

## Registration Information

If you are not registered to vote with the County or District, you must pre-register. The special evening registration date is May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The registration will be held at Cicero Elementary School and the Administrative Office Building. Additionally, you may register at the District Offices until May 12<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Voter Qualifications

Voters must be:

- 18 years of age
- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- Not under sentence for a felony conviction and not adjudged mentally incompetent
- Be registered with the Onondaga County Board of Elections, pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law.

*NOTE: A post office box is not an address of residency. Voters must reside in the district, not just maintain a post office box.*

## Detailed Budget

NOTICE is given that a copy of a statement prepared by the Board of Education of the estimated expenses and the amount of money that will be required for school purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 and for the first 120 days of the ensuing fiscal year, may be obtained at each school in the District and at the Administrative Office Building, 5355 West Taft Road, North Syracuse, New York, on and after May 10, 2011 during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., each weekday except Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

**No mail-in registrations will be accepted.**

*For more information, please call Connie Gibson, District Clerk, at 218-2131.*



5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SYRACUSE, NY  
PERMIT NO. 4

## POSTAL PATRON ECR WSS

**DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH**

### Tax Exempt Parcels

The number of exemptions in the town of Cicero is 8,013 equaling 22.7% .  
The number of exemptions in the town of Clay is 8,607 equaling 30.8%.  
The number of exemptions in the town of Salina is 2,919 equaling 35.3%.

### Salina Free Library Proposition


Shall the annual appropriation for the Salina Free Library within the School District be increased from \$382,454 to \$393,000, such sum to be raised by levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District located in the Town of Salina in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law?

### Bus Bonding Proposition

Shall the Board of Education of the North Syracuse Central School District (the "School District") be authorized to purchase ten (10) 65-passenger diesel school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$105,690 each; one (1) 39-passenger diesel school bus with one to three wheelchair positions and air conditioning at an estimated maximum cost of \$118,071; and one (1) 48-passenger bus with air conditioning at an estimated maximum cost of \$105,487 for a total estimated maximum cost of all such vehicles not to exceed \$1,280,458, and to obtain the necessary funds by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the School District to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board of Education shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of said tax, to issue up to \$1,280,458 in obligations of the School District?



### North Syracuse Central Schools Average Home Tax Rate 2011-2012 - 5.2%

|                           | <br>Cicero | <br>Clay | <br>Salina |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Full Value                | \$100,000   | \$100,000   | \$100,000   |
| Assessments               | \$4,900   | \$4,320   | \$100,000   |
| Est. Tax Rate per \$1,000 | \$442.33  | \$501.42  | \$21.67   |
| Est. Annual School Taxes  | \$2,167   | \$2,167   | \$2,167   |
| Tax Increase              | \$108   | \$108   | \$108   |