

Sea Isle School Budget Down for Fewer Pupils

By **JOE HART**

SEA ISLE CITY — The district board of education introduced a \$4.2 million 2006-2007 budget on March 14, which was down \$131,492 or 3 percent from last year's budget.

This follows the district's

effort to cut costs when realizing attendance in its pre-K through eighth grade school would go from 81 pupils on Oct. 15, 2006, to 72 pupils on the same date this year.

Of the total spending package, \$3.2 million is to be raised by taxation, \$31,419 less than last

year.

Several expenses are down substantially from last year including regular program instruction and undistributed instruction expenses.

Regular instruction costs were \$921,167 last year compared to \$754,707 projected for the new school year, a difference of more than \$160,000, while undistributed instruction fell almost \$145,000.

There were also a few sizable increased expenses from last year: Special education support services are up more than \$90,000, and employee benefits increased more than

\$147,000 from \$505,084 in 2006 to \$652,155 in this year's budget.

Figures issued from Gov. Jon Corzine's office Feb. 26 had Sea Isle's share of state aid at \$461,107, which was up \$25,081 from last year's figure of \$436,026, an increase of 5.8 percent.

A public hearing on the proposed school budget was held yesterday at 6 p.m. in the elementary school at 4501 Park Road, too late for coverage in this edition.

Contact Hart at (609) 886-8600 Ext 35 or at: jhart@cmcherald.com