



Budget Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

May 2011

2011-2012 District Budget Proposal

Proposed Budget: \$101,656,806
Budget-to-Budget Change: -0.39%
Tax Rate Change: 0.00%

Developing a proposed 2011-2012 budget has proven to be a real challenge. While the economy lags, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District continues to deal with rising mandatory expenses such as health insurance and retirement costs. After a careful analysis that included input from many community members, Board of Education members are prepared to present a proposed budget they believe is educationally sound and fiscally responsible.

In fact, Rush-Henrietta is proposing a budget-to-budget decrease of 0.39 percent, which is a spending reduction of about \$400,000. This is among the most conservative budget-to-budget changes in Monroe County. Under this proposal, the true value tax rate would not increase. Rush-Henrietta's tax rate would remain the lowest among the 17 local suburban school districts. The Board of Education is pleased that the proposal maintains all educational programs for children. If the proposal is approved, one way we will have accomplished this is by reducing projected operating expenses by nearly \$10 million since 2009.

Highlights of Proposed Budget:

- Maintains all instructional programs and student services
- Preserves the district's successful small-class-size initiative
- Reduces staffing by 60.8 positions in areas that have least impact on students
- Uses an additional \$1.6 million from reserve funds
- No increase in true value tax rate; taxpayers shielded from extra burden
- True value tax rate next year would be the same as it was in 2002-2003

What Does This Mean in Dollars and Cents?

- This proposed budget does not include a tax rate increase. A resident's school taxes will be the same in 2011-2012 as they are today if their property assessment remains the same.

Did You Know?

- For the past six years, Rush-Henrietta has methodically reduced non-staffing spending. In fact, the school district has reduced operating expenses by nearly \$10 million during the past three years.
- Thanks to aggressive cost-cutting measures, if the proposed budget is approved, Rush-Henrietta's true value tax rate in 2011-2012 will be the same as it was during the 2002-2003 school year.
- Moody's Investors Service, which grades bonds based on the financial stability of an organization, upgraded Rush-Henrietta's bond rating from A1 to Aa3. In its most recent report, Moody's says it "expects the district's financial position to remain strong given its solid fiscal management that supports the maintenance of reserves that provide significant budgetary flexibility and financial cushion."
- Rush-Henrietta has had the lowest true value tax rate in Monroe County for many years. Under the proposed budget, Rush-Henrietta would have the lowest rate again next year.

VOTE MAY 17



From the Board of Education

May 1, 2011

Dear Community Resident:

On Tuesday, May 17, eligible residents in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2011-2012 school budget adopted by the Board of Education. The proposal reflects our commitment to present a budget that we believe is educationally sound and fiscally responsible, and continues our commitment to provide a high-quality education for all children in our school district.

During these challenging economic times, the Board of Education used a combination of financial strategies to develop the proposed 2011-2012 budget. Through aggressive cost cutting, the use of available reserve funds, and carefully considered staffing reductions, we believe we can preserve our educational programs and services for students with no additional burden to the taxpayer. With no increase in the tax rate next year, Rush-Henrietta would continue to have the lowest true value school tax rate in Monroe County.

Board members have approached this year's budget development process with some essential common beliefs. We want the district to:

- maintain all instructional programs at current levels;
- maintain all student services at current levels;
- keep small class sizes, which have boosted student achievement, at current levels;
- reduce staffing in ways that will have the least direct impact on students;
- use only a portion of our reserve funds; and
- require no increase in the true value tax rate.

Unfortunately, a large reduction in spending this year won't be enough on its own, given the multi-million-dollar reduction in state aid revenue. To compensate for this significant reduction, the school district intends to withdraw \$2.9 million from our reserve funds – the district's savings account – to help balance the budget and prevent a tax rate increase. We're also proposing a reduction of 60.8 staff positions. It is never easy to propose such reductions, because everyone who works here contributes to the success of our students. Nevertheless, reductions are necessary to create a budget that our community can view as fiscally responsible. To develop a fiscally responsible budget, we also are proposing reductions in many non-staffing areas. These include proposing 15 percent reductions in funding for student clubs and organizations, afterschool performing arts, and athletics. The reductions mean there will be fewer student clubs and organizations, the district will not pay to hold the annual music festival at the Dome Arena but instead will host it at the Senior High School gymnasium, and freshman sports will not be offered. All other levels of athletics remain. The goal was to reduce, but not eliminate, extracurricular opportunities for our students.

All eligible residents are urged to vote between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at the Transportation and Operations Center at the corner of Lehigh Station and Middle roads. If you have questions, please contact any board trustee listed below. We genuinely appreciate the community's continued interest in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Banker, President
Board of Education

Susan E. Banker, President	sbanker@rhnet.org	334-3395
Diane E. McBride, Vice President	dmcbride@rhnet.org	533-2444
Robert C. Bower	rbower@rhnet.org	533-4015
Jean M. Chaudari	jchaudari@rhnet.org	334-3506
Pamela J. Reinhardt	preinhardt@rhnet.org	334-3793
Sue A. Smith	sasmith@rhnet.org	334-6563
Phyllis P. Wickerham	pwickerham@rhnet.org	334-2095



Celebrating Student Achievement

2010 New York State Regents Results

Regents Exam	# Tested	% Passing
ASL	43	100
English	502	95.4
French	63	98.4
German	47	95.7
Spanish	161	95.7
Integrated Algebra	565	81.6
Geometry	515	70.5
Algebra 2/Trigonometry	356	69.4
Earth Science	402	75.4
Biology	643	88.8
Chemistry	402	71.6
Physics	210	76.7
Global History and Geography	508	83.1
U.S. History and Government	502	91.4

Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement courses are offered in many academic areas. In Rush-Henrietta, Senior High School students wrote 848 AP exams, and 624 (74 percent) of the exams received a score of 3 or better. That means 174 more exams were written and 128 more scored 3 or higher compared to the previous year – a great improvement! Exams are graded on scores of 1 to 5; scores of 3 and above are generally accepted for college credit.



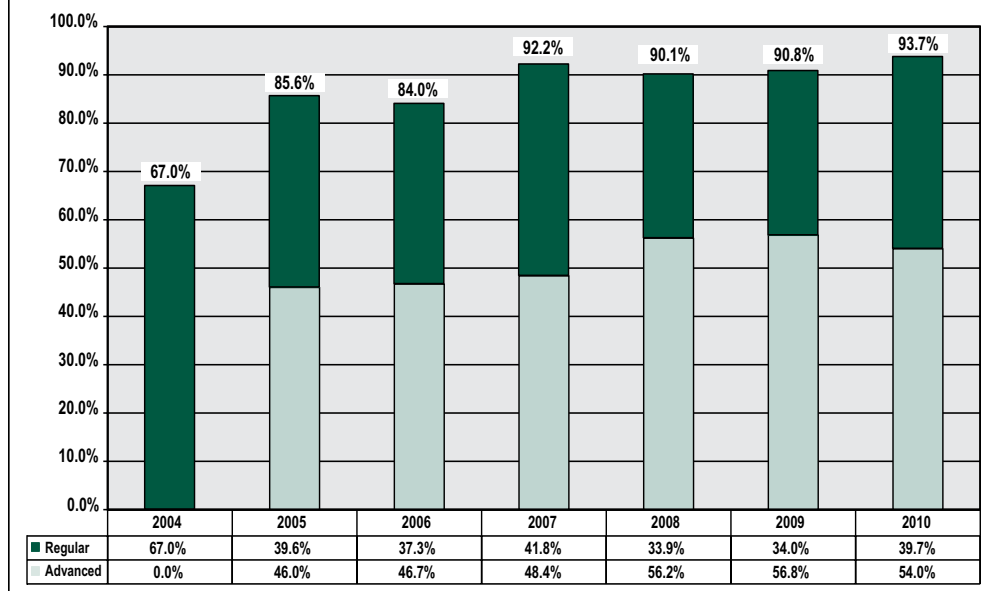
Rush-Henrietta continues to challenge its students to take more rigorous courses in an effort to increase their college readiness. For example, Rush-Henrietta requires all eighth graders to take Earth Science, a class typically taught elsewhere in ninth grade. This gives students the opportunity to take an extra year of science to prepare for college. Rush-Henrietta also offers more challenging math courses.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

The New York State Department of Education requires the district to make documents related to student achievement available prior to annual district budget votes. Information regarding the 2009-2010 School Report Cards Part 1, which provides accountability status for all schools within the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, and the Fiscal Accountability Supplement for the district, is available at www.rhnet.org/reportcards.

In addition, a hard copy of each report is available through the Office of Quality Assurance and Community Relations, located in the Parker Administration Building at 2034 Lehigh Station Road. To make an appointment to review these documents during regular business hours, please call 359-5018.

Graduation Results
Percent of Graduates Receiving Regents Diplomas 2004-2010





Rush-Henrietta Students Make Community Proud

Rush-Henrietta students continue to give the community many reasons to be proud. Here is a small sampling of their notable achievements, none of which would be possible without the encouragement of our parents and community residents.

- The Rush-Henrietta football team won the New York state championship and was named a Scholar Athlete Team by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.
- The Rush-Henrietta Senior High School Technology team – consisting of four girls - won the third annual Technology Challenge.
- An eighth grader at Burger Middle School competed in the New York state finals of the National Geographic Bee Challenge at Alfred State College.
- For the second year in a row, Rush-Henrietta won the Section 5 boys' indoor track championship.
- Rush-Henrietta students participated in efforts to benefit local charities, including the Pluta Cancer Center, Make A Wish Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House, Mary Cariola Children's Center, CURE Childhood Cancer Association, and the American Red Cross.
- The Rush-Henrietta varsity boys bowling team won its fifth Monroe County Division 1 Championship in six years.
- A group of 30 fifth graders at Crane Elementary School participated in the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run/Walk.
- Fyle Elementary School students participated in the Pennies for Patients campaign to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- Four high school seniors had their artwork displayed at the New York State School Boards Association Conference in New York City.
- Many Rush-Henrietta students participated in the New York State School Music Association All-State Music Festival concert.
- More than 25 high school seniors were inducted into the Henrietta Youth Hall of Fame.
- The Rush-Henrietta Senior High School Varsity Boys Cross Country team was ranked No. 1 in the state.

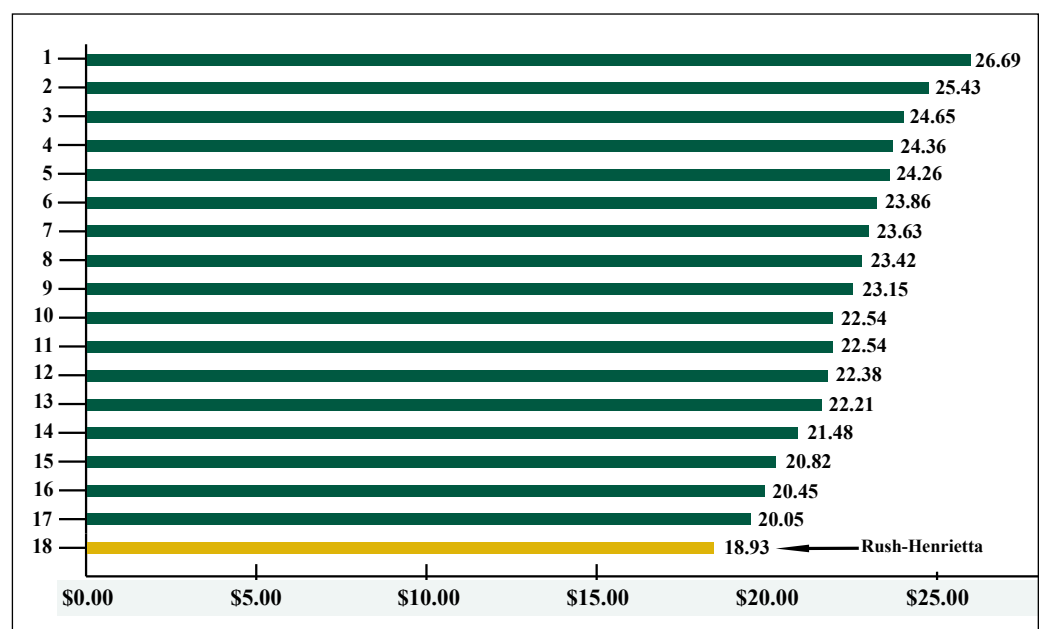
These are accomplishments of which our entire community can be proud. To learn about the good work of our students and staff members, please visit the district website at www.rhnet.org.

R-H True Value Tax Rate: Still the LOWEST in Monroe County

Monroe County School District Comparison*

Tax rates are a means of comparing taxes between towns. The true value tax rate in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District is consistently among the **lowest** in Monroe County. Next year, Rush-Henrietta again would have the lowest tax rate.

* Data from "2011 Facts and Figures" published by the Monroe County School Boards Association



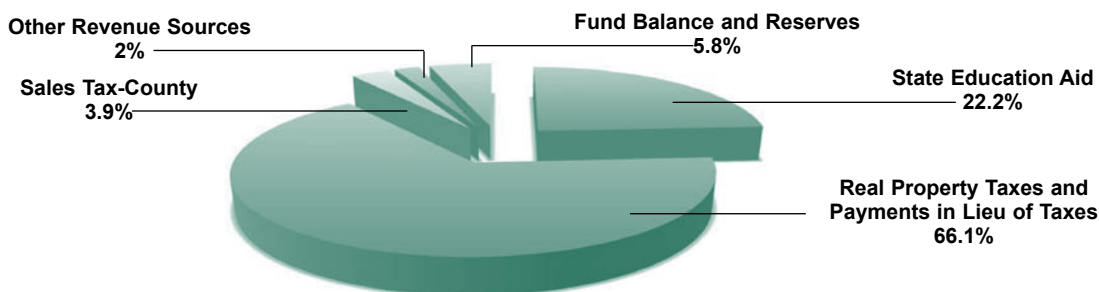


Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

2011-2012 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2010-2011	2011-2012	% Change
State Education Aid	\$25,126,137	\$22,587,940	-10.1
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	66,266,473	67,180,950	1.4
Sales Tax-County	3,555,000	4,000,000	12.5
Other Revenue Sources	2,247,300	1,987,916	-11.5
Fund Balance and Reserves	4,861,744	5,900,000	21.4
GRAND TOTALS	\$102,056,654	\$101,656,806	-0.4

REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



2011-2012 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2011-2012 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

Instruction: 57.3% — The instructional program is the largest category in the budget and is the focal point of our educational system. All services that provide, or directly affect, instruction to students are budgeted in this area. The following are included in this category: regular school program, special education, summer school and continuing education support services [school libraries, health, psychological and social work services, curriculum coordination & supervision, curriculum development, research & evaluation], BOCES instructional programs, student activities [interscholastic sports, intramurals, co-curricular activities] and required tuition payments for Rush-Henrietta students attending approved private and public school programs.

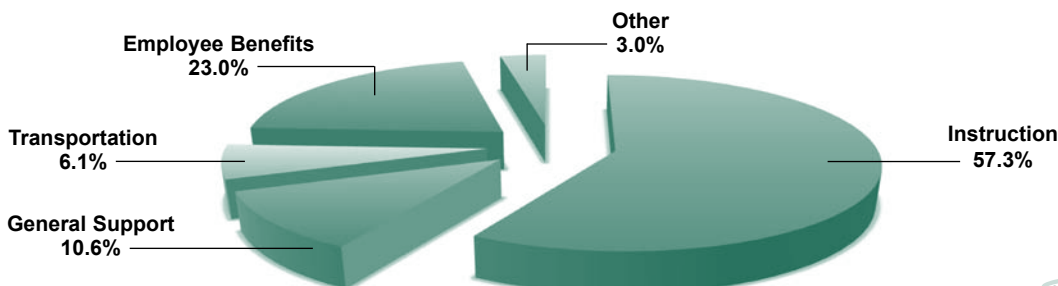
General Support: 10.6% — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

Transportation: 6.1% — Includes bus transportation for more than 6,400 students to district, parochial and private schools; BOCES centers for vocational & special education programs; field trips and athletic team trips.

Employee Benefits: 23.0% — Included in the employee benefits category are social security, retirement, insurance and the risk fund which includes unemployment insurance, disability and life insurance.

Other: 3.0% — A small portion of the budget is for other expenditures that include bus purchase reserve fund, community services, summer handicapped education, school food services, debt service and transfers to the capital fund.

EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET





Rush-Henrietta Central Sch

2011-2012 Component Budget

Administrative Component: 11.5% of Budget

The Administrative Component provides for overall general support and management activities, including business office operations, payroll, purchasing, general administration, personnel, legal and auditing services. Cost for administration and supervision of each of the district's schools is also included in this component.

Function or Account	2010-2011	2011-2012	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	117,406	101,926	(15,480)
Central Administration	356,753	314,877	(41,876)
Finance	554,322	542,366	(11,956)
Legal Services	74,050	73,535	(515)
Personnel	502,213	506,740	4,527
Public Information	293,146	219,692	(73,454)
Other Central Services	1,067,989	1,124,636	56,647
Other Special Items	1,335,982	1,304,266	(31,716)
Curriculum Development & Supervision	1,966,756	1,749,181	(217,575)
Supervision-Regular School	2,666,926	2,486,465	(180,461)
Supervision-Special School	285,709	288,197	2,488
Research, Evaluation & Planning	376,004	354,059	(21,945)
Employee Benefits	2,523,979	2,625,984	102,005
TOTALS	\$12,121,235	\$11,691,924	(\$429,311)

Program Component: 78.4% of Budget

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the district's students. Programs are offered in six elementary buildings, two middle schools, one Ninth Grade Academy and one high school. Funds are also included in this component for transporting students.

Function or Account	2010-2011	2011-2012	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	54,078,715	53,181,087	(897,628)
In-Service Training	170,148	167,898	(2,250)
Other District Transportation	5,095,067	4,628,209	(466,858)
Garage Building	232,800	183,005	(49,795)
BOCES Transportation	1,189,054	1,364,952	175,898
Community Services	1,844	1,000	(844)
Employee Benefits	17,593,727	19,564,278	1,970,551
Other Transfers	385,000	600,000	(215,000)
TOTALS	\$78,746,355	\$79,690,429	\$944,074

Capital Component: 10.1% of Budget

The Capital Component pays for maintaining buildings, for upkeep of property, and for electricity, gas heat, oil, water & sewer and telephone services. Funds are also included for "debt service" payments on capital projects (principal and interest payments) and for refund of taxes for claims against property assessments.

Function or Account	2010-2011	2011-2012	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	4,563,906	4,371,442	(192,464)
Maintenance of Plant	2,180,310	1,974,431	(205,879)
Refund of Taxes	100,000	100,000	0
Other Special Items	144,046	144,310	264
Employee Benefits	1,231,567	1,203,185	(28,382)
Transfer to Capital Fund	1,060,510	557,010	(503,500)
Debt Service	1,908,725	1,924,075	15,350
TOTALS	\$11,189,064	\$10,274,453	(\$914,611)

GRAND TOTALS	\$102,056,654	\$101,656,806	(\$399,848)
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School District Budget Proposal

2011-2012 Proposed Expenditures

Instruction: 57.3% of Budget

	2010-2011	2011-2012	% Change
Salaries	43,540,516	43,462,498	-0.18
Equipment	388,604	195,748	-49.63
Supplies & Materials	977,390	1,213,276	24.13
Textbooks & Software	505,543	501,740	-0.75
Contractual Expenses	1,438,437	1,242,983	-13.59
BOCES	10,996,799	10,125,654	-7.92
Tuition	1,720,249	1,484,988	-13.68
TOTALS	\$59,567,538	\$58,226,887	-2.25

General Support: 10.6% of Budget

	2010-2011	2011-2012	% Change
Salaries	4,315,890	4,188,164	-2.96
Equipment	267,556	112,515	-57.95
Supplies & Materials	589,203	657,331	11.56
Contractual Expenses	4,000,115	3,845,467	-3.87
BOCES	2,094,079	1,974,744	-5.70
TOTALS	\$11,266,843	\$10,778,221	-4.34

Transportation: 6.1% of Budget

	2010-2011	2011-2012	% Change
Salaries	3,402,822	2,875,099	-15.51
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	1,925,045	1,934,737	0.50
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	1,189,054	1,366,330	14.91
TOTALS	\$6,516,921	\$6,176,166	-5.23

Employee Benefits: 23.0% of Budget

	2010-2011	2011-2012	% Change
Social Security	3,914,307	3,940,536	0.67
Retirement	4,777,715	6,614,193	38.44
Insurance	12,657,251	12,838,718	1.43
TOTALS	\$21,349,273	\$23,393,447	9.57

Other: 3.0% of Budget

	2010-2011	2011-2012	% Change
Bus Purchase Reserve Fund	557,010	557,010	0.00
Community Service	1,844	1,000	-45.77
Summer Handicapped Education	185,000	400,000	116.22
School Food Services	200,000	200,000	0.00
Debt Service	1,908,725	1,924,075	0.80
Transfer to Capital Fund	503,500	0	-100.00
TOTALS	\$3,356,079	\$3,082,085	-8.16

GENERAL FUND TOTALS	\$102,056,654	\$101,656,806	-0.39
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Because

Since January, the Board of Education and Superintendent Ken Graham have been engaging the community in an open and frank dialogue about financial issues impacting our community and Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Board members and Dr. Graham have been answering questions on the district website at www.rhnet.org/budgettalk. If your topic hasn't been addressed, please share it by visiting the website and clicking the Contact Us button. We look forward to hearing from community members and seeing you during the budget vote on Tuesday, May 17. Among the questions and answers posted online:



Why are we cutting the budget when the community just approved Phase III?



In February, the community approved a facilities renovation proposal by a two-to-one margin. This proposal allows for improvements to the Senior High School campus. The Phase III project does not affect the tax rate because the funds required to pay for the project were already set aside during the past five years in capital reserve funds. Reserve funds can only be used for the purpose they were created. Once funds are placed into reserves for these specific building purposes, state legal requirements makes it very difficult to access them for operating expenses. Thus, for example, the district could not apply the money in these reserves to next year's budget to save jobs. The district is, however, using money in reserve funds – our rainy-day savings account – that can be applied for general operating expenses. For example, the district has an Employee Retirement System reserve fund. The superintendent is proposing to use some of these saved funds to pay for the entire ERS liability next year. In past years, this could have been paid for with state aid money. Given the proposed reduction in state aid this year, that is not possible. The superintendent has proposed that \$2.9 million in reserve funds be used next year in lieu of a substantial tax rate increase.



Did approval of the Phase III project impact the proposed budget?



Yes, in a positive fashion. The Phase III proposal is helping in the development of next year's budget. In the budget proposal the superintendent recommended to the Board of Education March 8, he was able to propose removing \$503,500 traditionally allotted for capital maintenance projects in the general budget because the community approved the Phase III facilities renovations plan. The Phase III renovations will provide Rush-Henrietta with \$600,000 each year in state aid reimbursement, meaning the funds don't have to come directly from local taxpayers.



How will classrooms be affected by the proposed budget?



The proposed budget maintains current class sizes. The teaching positions being reduced are five special education consultant teachers, and three elementary positions due to enrollment fluctuations and more consistent application of elementary class size guidelines. Even with the staffing reductions, the average class size at elementary schools next year will be 15.5, the same as this year. All middle school and high school class size targets will remain at current levels, 21 at middle school and 24 at the high school. These class sizes, like our elementary class size, are among the lowest, if not the lowest in Monroe County. Six additional positions are being cut at the high school due to enrollment changes, as well as three at the middle school level because of scheduling changes.



How are Rush-Henrietta students performing? Are my taxes making a difference?



You absolutely are making a difference! For the past six years, academic achievement of Rush-Henrietta students has improved! Please see page 3 of this newsletter to see the difference you are making.



How will the proposed budget affect homeowners?



The Board of Education's proposed budget of \$101.7 million calls for no increase in the true-value tax rate. In fact, if approved by voters, the district's annual budget would decrease by \$400,000 from the current school year.



You Asked...

Q What is a contingency budget and how is it determined?

A If the voters fail to approve the district's proposed budget, state law requires the district to follow a contingency budget. The amount of the contingency budget is dictated by a calculation provided by the New York State Education Department. By formula, a contingency budget is defined as the lowest of a) a 4 percent increase over the prior year, b) 120 percent of inflation, or c) the district's proposed budget less certain items. Since the district's proposed budget for 2011-2012 is lower than 120 percent of the consumer price index increase (1.9 percent), a contingency budget would be the district's proposed budget less certain items such as equipment purchases, student supplies, and community use of buildings and grounds. The state stipulates the maximum amount that a contingency budget can be, but in the event voters do not approve a proposed budget, the board would not be obligated to adopt the highest dollar amount allowed by the contingent budget. Results from exit poll surveys show that some community residents believe the school district tries to corner voters into approving the proposed budget by publicizing contingency information. However, the school district is required to calculate the contingency budget information and to share it with the public via the Six-Day Budget Notice, which is included in this newsletter on page 10.

Q What are the major factors impacting the development of the proposed 2011-2012 budget?

A The major impact on the proposed budget is a significant reduction in state aid proposed in the governor's budget. Rush-Henrietta faces a \$2.5 million (10 percent) reduction in state aid, on top of a \$3.1 million (11 percent) reduction in 2010-2011. Like all school districts, Rush-Henrietta is grappling with the new economic realities associated with a national recession experts say started in 2007. Despite careful and conservative planning, much of the financial landscape remains unclear. The major factors under consideration for the development of the 2011-2012 budget include retirement costs, health care costs, fuel costs, potential changes in state aid allocations or reductions, contractual obligations, and BOCES' charges.

Q What is Rush-Henrietta doing to control costs?

A The school district has explored many cost-saving measures during the past few years. Because energy costs are such a volatile component of the budget, each of our recent capital improvements have included significant energy-efficient items. These include high-efficiency school boilers and energy-efficient windows. Recently, the district was awarded a NYSEDA grant to install energy-efficient lighting in our school gymnasiums. In addition, the district is adjusting some of its bus runs to make them more efficient. Furthermore, consultant usage was scrutinized and reduced. We are no longer contracting with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for a School Resource Officer and are adjusting our school physician services to reduce costs. All other costs were carefully examined, and many were given an across-the-board reduction of 10 percent. Did you know that Rush-Henrietta works with other local school districts to save money, especially through cooperative bidding? To learn more, please watch a brief video at www.rhnet.org/bestforless.

Q How are school taxes determined?

A Your school taxes are determined by three factors - the school tax levy, property assessments, and equalization rates.

- The school tax levy is the total dollar amount the district must collect from property owners to support the annual operating budget.
- In terms of property assessments, Rush-Henrietta uses property values provided by the four towns in the school district - Brighton, Henrietta, Pittsford, and Rush - to levy taxes. Each property within a town is assigned a value by the town assessor.
- Each year, the New York State Office of Real Property Services evaluates each town's assessment practices and sets specific equalization rates to ensure a fair tax burden distribution across the district. For this reason, an 8 percent increase in property assessments in one town does not mean that all four towns within our school district would experience the same increase. If the school tax levy increase is greater than the increase in property assessments for the district as a whole, the district's true value tax rate increases.

For more information about school district finances or the budget development process, please consult the district website at www.rhnet.org/budgettalk. Or, contact Andy Whitmore, executive director of school finance, at 359-5037 or awhitmore@rhnet.org.



On May 17, 2011, Eligible Voters Will Vote On...

Proposition 1

BUDGET PROPOSITION

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the estimate of amount of money required for school purposes during the fiscal year 2011-2012 in the total amount of \$101,656,806 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

Proposition 2

BUS EXPENDITURES

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of up to \$1,000,000 from the 2009 Bus Reserve Fund for the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of district students.

Rush-Henrietta 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	\$ 102,056,654	\$ 101,656,806	\$ 101,333,126
Increase/(Decrease) for the 2011-12 School Year		\$ (399,848)	\$ (723,528)
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in each Proposed Budget		-0.39%	-0.71%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.60%	
Resulting Est. Property Tax Levy for the 2011-12 School Year		\$ 64,198,820.00	\$ 63,875,140.00
Administrative Component	\$ 12,121,235	\$ 11,691,924	\$ 11,661,924
Program Component	\$ 78,746,355	\$ 79,690,429	\$ 79,509,264
Capital Component	\$ 11,189,064	\$ 10,274,453	\$ 10,161,938

* The Contingent Budget information displayed above has been calculated in total and is less than a 1.92% budget cap for the 2011-12 school year, after the exclusion of certain proposed expenses. Budget items excluded from the calculation include expenses related to increases in enrollment and previously approved capital projects. The actual appropriations under a contingency budget would be determined by the Board of Education should this be necessary.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings based upon the standard \$30,000 exemption authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

	Budget Proposed for the 2011-12 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$ 568

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2011-2012 by the qualified voters of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, Monroe County, New York, will be held at the Transportation & Operations Center in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Transportation & Operations Center, 1133 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

If you are a United States citizen, will be at least 18 years old by May 17, 2011, and have been a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote, you may vote. Proof of residency and personal identification is required.



Candidates Vie for Two Board of Education Seats

The school district is governed by a seven-member Board of Education elected by the eligible voters of the district. Members are volunteer public officials who serve without pay. As elected representatives of district residents, and as officers of the state of New York, board members must carry out duties required by the state Legislature, the Board of Regents, and the state Commissioner of Education. The board establishes policies for the operation of the district. On Tuesday, May 17, 2011, eligible voters in Rush-Henrietta will elect two (2) candidates to the Board of Education. The following information is provided by each candidate.



Robert C. Bower

Address: 465 Rush Henrietta Townline Road, Rush, N.Y. 14543

District Resident: 29 years

Family: Spouse, Susan; Children, Melissa (29), Katie (25), Emily (21), and Matthew (17)

Education: Northwood University, BBA

Employment: Dorschel Automotive Group, Director of Training and Career Development

Honors/Activities: NGA/SHS PTO member;

Budget Advisory Council member, 2005-2007; Budget Advisory Council chairperson, 2007-2011; RHCS Parent University presenter; Member and elder, John Calvin Presbyterian Church; 2011 Henrietta Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year nominee

Statement: As a longtime resident of the Rush-Henrietta School District, I am very proud of our district and enthusiastic about the opportunity to give back. My wife, Sue, and I have four children. Our three daughters are all R-H grads and our son will graduate this June. They have all received wonderful educations at R-H. I believe that to be a productive board member, a person needs to be knowledgeable in how a school functions organizationally, financially, and academically. A candidate must also be principled and have the best interests of the student body at heart. Some of my qualifications include:

- Active in PARP activities, Crane Elementary School
- R-H Parent University presenter
- 2005-2006 Budget Advisory Council member
- 2007-2011 Budget Advisory Council chairperson
- NGA/SHS PTO member
- Director of Training and Career Development, Dorschel Automotive
- Member and elder, John Calvin Presbyterian Church



Diane E. McBride

Address: 670 Rush West Rush Road, Rush, N.Y. 14543

District Resident: 53 years

Family: Spouse, James; Children, Elizabeth, David, and Amy (all R-H graduates)

Education: Rush-Henrietta Central School District, Regents Diploma

Monroe Community College, A.A.S.

Employment: Pieters Family Life Center-Heritage Christian Services, Receptionist

Previously: Adjunct Instructor at Monroe Community College Preschool Teacher at Pinnacle Lutheran School

Honors/Activities: Member, Monroe County School Boards Association, New York State School Boards Association, and National School Boards Association; Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation liaison, Policy Committee, and Budget Advisory Council; received Master of Boardsmanship award from NYSSBA; vice president of the Board of Education; member and music/workshop leader, Pinnacle Lutheran Church; chorus member, Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus.

Statement: As a current board member, I feel that I have become an effective member of a team. There are many demands on our school district to continue to provide a quality education for our students within limited financial resources. I would like the opportunity to continue working with the board and the superintendent, and for the community, ensuring educationally sound programs, while providing fiscal responsibility.

Learn More About Proposed Budget on District Website

Want to learn more about the Rush-Henrietta Central School District's proposed 2011-2012 budget? The school district has made sharing information with the community easier than ever. Please visit www.rhnet.org/budgettalk to read answers to the following questions:

- Why are we reducing the budget when the community just approved Phase III?
- Did approval of the Phase III project impact the proposed budget?
- How are school taxes determined?
- How does an increase in my property assessment affect my school taxes?
- When estimating the tax levy for the next school year, does the school district take into account property valuation?
- How are Rush-Henrietta students performing?
- What is a contingency budget and how is it determined?
- What are the major factors impacting development of the proposed 2011-2012 budget?
- What is Rush-Henrietta doing to control costs?
- How has Monroe County's FAIR plan (sales-tax intercept plan) been resolved?
- For the 2010-2011 school year, what are the taxes on a house assessed at \$100,000 in Henrietta?
- How does COMIDA affect property taxes?
- How do non-profit organizations, such as local colleges, hurt or help the school district?
- Where can I learn more about the proposed budget?

In addition, in this section of the website, you can ask questions regarding the proposed budget and a district representative will respond to your inquiry.

Rush-Henrietta Rush-Henrietta Central School District

2034 Lehigh Station Road
Henrietta, New York 14467
(585) 359-5000
www.rhnet.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Henrietta, NY
Permit No. 2

2010-2011 Board of Education

Mrs. Susan E. Banker, President
Mrs. Diane E. McBride, Vice President
Mr. Robert C. Bower
Mrs. Jean M. Chaduari
Mrs. Pamela J. Reinhardt
Mrs. Sue A. Smith
Mrs. Phyllis P. Wickerham

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr.

Published by the Office of Quality Assurance and Community Relations

Mrs. Denise Anthony, Assistant Superintendent

ECRWSS
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VOTE MAY 17

Voter Eligibility

- **Personal identification will be required.**
- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old by May 17, 2011.
- You must be a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You do not have to own property in the district.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to eligible residents of the district who are unable to vote in person on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, for reasons specified by law. *Voters must complete an application for an absentee ballot in order to receive one.* Applications are available by phone or in person at the District Clerk's Office, Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road.

*If you have questions regarding voter eligibility
or absentee ballots, please call
Karen Flanigan, district clerk, at 359-5010.*

2011-2012 Proposed Budget: Striving for a Fiscally Sound, Educationally Responsible Budget

- Maintains most instructional programs for students
- Maintains most student services
- Preserves the successful small-class-size initiative
- Reduces staffing by 60.8 positions
- Uses an additional \$1.6 million from reserve funds
- True value tax rate next year would be the same as in 2002-2003.



RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Vote at the Transportation
and Operations Center
1133 Lehigh Station Road**

**Voters will elect 2 members
to the Board of Education
and vote on the following
two propositions.**

**PROPOSITION NO. 1
BUDGET PROPOSITION
\$101,656,806**

**PROPOSITION NO. 2
BUS EXPENDITURES**