



# Budget Newsletter

Learn More About Student Achievement at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org)!

*Rush-Henrietta*  
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

May 2013

## 2013-2014 District Budget Proposal

Proposed Budget: \$107,549,087  
Budget-to-Budget Change: 3.5%  
Tax Rate Change: 2.4%

Developing a proposed budget is a complex task. As we developed a proposed 2013-2014 budget, we spoke with many community members to solicit their feedback. 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.

Rush-Henrietta is proposing a budget-to-budget increase of 3.5 percent. Under this proposal, the true value tax rate would increase by 2.4 percent, well within the limits established under the state's new Tax Rate Cap. 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.

### Highlights of Proposed Budget:

- Maintains instructional programs and student services
- Preserves the district's successful small-class-size initiative
- Reinstates funding for boys basketball and girls softball teams at the Ninth Grade Academy, instructional technology such as computers, a full-time cleaner at the Senior High School, and a head bus driver
- Continues to use \$2.8 million in reserve funds to shield taxpayers from additional burden
- True value tax rate next year would be lower than it was in 2003-2004

### What Does This Mean in Dollars and Cents?

- Taking into account the STAR exemption - for which all homeowners are eligible - a district resident owning a house assessed at \$100,000 would see school taxes increase by \$35 next year. A senior citizen with the enhanced STAR exemption who owns a house assessed at \$100,000 would see school taxes increase by \$23 next year.

### Did You Know?

- Rush-Henrietta continues to methodically reduce non-staffing spending. In fact, the school district has reduced operating expenses by more than \$10 million during the past five years. In recognition of its efforts, the state awarded the district a \$1.9 million efficiency grant.
- Thanks to aggressive cost-cutting measures, if the proposed budget is approved, Rush-Henrietta's true value tax rate in 2013-2014 will be lower than it was during the 2003-2004 school year.
- In its most recent report, Moody's Investor's Service 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.
- Rush-Henrietta also was awarded a \$1.9 million school performance improvement grant to support middle school learning.

VOTE MAY 21



# From the Board of Education

May 1, 2013

Dear Community Resident:

On Tuesday, May 21, eligible voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2013-2014 school budget adopted by the Board of Education. The proposal reflects our commitment to put forth a budget that is both educationally sound and fiscally responsible, and continues our commitment to provide a high-quality education for all children in our school district.

The budget development process begins each November when community members join teachers, staff members, and administrators to serve on the Budget Advisory Council. The council meets multiple times to review all aspects of the budget – including any new proposals – and makes recommendations to the superintendent regarding the proposed budget. During the budget-development process, stakeholders provided feedback at community forums and public hearings. At the same time, the Board of Education and district administration conducts a comprehensive program and service review to determine how the budget supports the district’s priorities. After a careful review, the Board of Education adopted its proposed budget for the community to consider.

The Board of Education’s proposed budget for 2013-2014 ensures that all programs and services that our children receive this year will be available next year. It also reinstates programs and resources that were removed two years ago because of insufficient funding. These include both boys basketball and girls softball teams at the Ninth Grade Academy, funding for instructional technology such as computers, a full-time cleaner at the Senior High School, and a head bus driver.

Maintaining all of our programs and services at current levels requires a budget of \$107.5 million, an increase of 3.5 percent compared to last year. Factors driving this increase include increased health insurance costs, state-imposed retirement system costs, and increased mandated costs for special education services.

Despite these fiscal challenges, we are pleased that Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently recognized the Rush-Henrietta Central School District for “implementing innovative strategies to improve the overall efficiency of school district management, while maintaining or improving student achievement.” We accomplished this by consolidating central office administrative responsibilities and positions; consolidating district printers into a single contract; revising the district’s health insurance plan as well as the contract for maintenance staff; and achieving district-wide energy savings through revising services.

Given our expense and revenue assumptions, we project a true value tax rate increase of no more than 2.4 percent. As in previous years, this projected tax rate increase is among the lowest in Monroe County, while continuing to fund our current initiatives and school improvement priorities. A homeowner with property assessed at \$100,000 and the basic STAR exemption would pay an additional \$35 next year, while a senior citizen with property assessed at \$100,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$23. The final true value tax rate is often lower than the proposed rate. The actual tax rate is established after town assessments are finalized.

All eligible voters are urged to vote between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at the Transportation and Operations Center at the corner of Lehigh Station and Middle roads. A valid form of personal identification is required to vote. If you have questions, please contact any board trustee listed below. We genuinely appreciate the strong support that our community continues to demonstrate for the delivery of quality programs and services that enable the district to guide student success... one child at a time.

Sincerely,

*Diane E. McBride*

Diane E. McBride, President  
Board of Education

Diane E. McBride, President	dmcbride@rhnet.org	334-0272
Pamela J. Reinhardt, Vice President	preinhardt@rhnet.org	334-3793
Robert C. Bower	rbower@rhnet.org	533-4015
Jean M. Chaudari	jchaudari@rhnet.org	334-3506
Rosie B. Mitchell	rmitchell@rhnet.org	334-3772
Sue A. Smith	sasmith@rhnet.org	334-6563
Phyllis P. Wickerham	pwickerham@rhnet.org	986-3095



# Celebrating Student Achievement

## 2012 New York State Regents Results

Regents Exam	# Tested	% Passing
ASL	49	91.8
English	457	93.4
French	56	82.1
German	20	90.0
Spanish	173	85.5
Integrated Algebra	468	88.5
Geometry	438	77.6
Algebra 2/Trigonometry	356	74.4
Earth Science	584	82.4
Biology	467	92.7
Chemistry	296	84.5
Physics	138	75.4
Global History and Geography	482	87.1
U.S. History and Government	447	93.1

## Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement courses are offered in many academic areas. In Rush-Henrietta, our Senior High School students wrote 807 AP exams, and 594 (74 percent) of the exams received a score of 3 or better. This continues a positive trend of more students taking advantage of our Advanced Placement offerings. Exams are graded on scores of 1 to 5; scores of 3 and above generally are accepted for college credit.

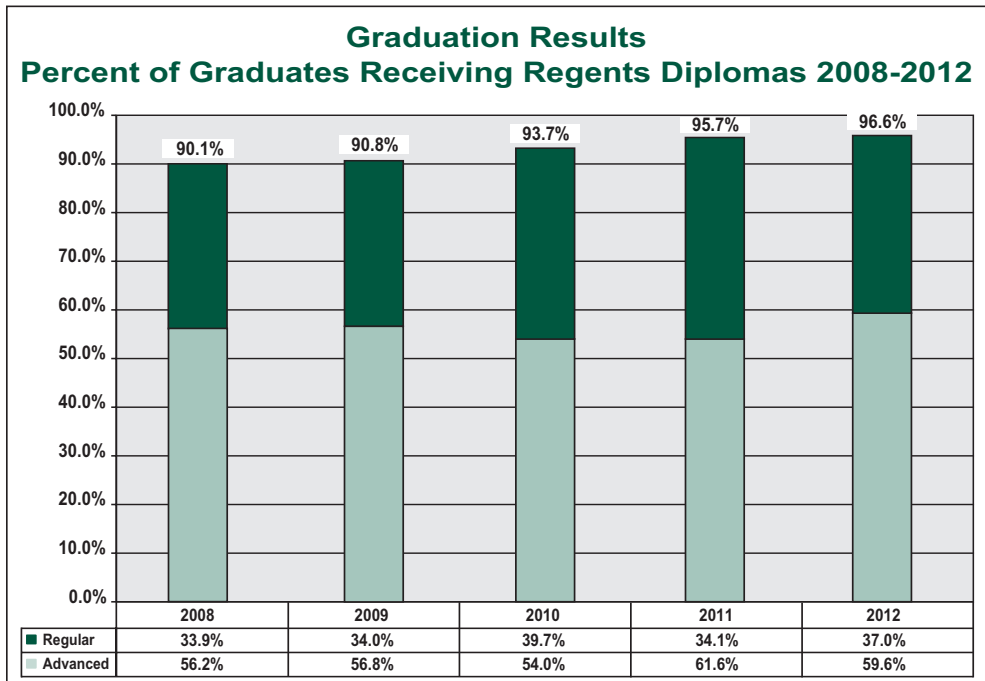


Rush-Henrietta continues to challenge its students to take more rigorous courses in an effort to increase their college readiness. For example, Rush-Henrietta requires all eighth graders to take Earth Science, a class typically taught elsewhere in ninth grade. This gives students the opportunity to take 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 2011-2012 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](http://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.





## Rush-Henrietta Central School District - Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2012-13 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2013-14 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 103,900,495	\$ 107,549,087	\$ 105,217,315
Increase/(Decrease) for the 2012-13 School Year		\$ 3,648,592	\$ 1,316,820
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		3.5%	1.3%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.1%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$ 65,684,973	\$ 68,016,745	\$ 65,684,973
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 78,379	\$ 909,969	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 65,606,594	\$ 67,106,776	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 65,647,810	\$ 67,596,881	
Difference: A - B (Positive Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$ (41,216)	\$ (490,105)	
Administrative Component	\$ 11,967,937	\$ 12,385,362	\$ 12,202,743
Program Component	\$ 81,649,950	\$ 84,628,803	\$ 83,518,295
Capital Component	\$ 10,282,608	\$ 10,534,922	\$ 9,496,277

The Contingency Budget information displayed above has been calculated in total, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. Budget items excluded from the calculation include equipment expenditures and other non-contingent expenses. The actual appropriations under a contingency budget, should this be necessary, would be determined by the Board of Education and may include additional contingent expenditures if funding sources other than additional tax levy amounts are identified.

Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:

Description	Amount
Bus purchases using Bus Reserve (no tax levy impact)	\$1,300,000
Capital improvements using Capital Reserve (no tax levy impact)	\$3,700,000

### 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.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$ 587

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2013-2014 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 21, 2013, 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.

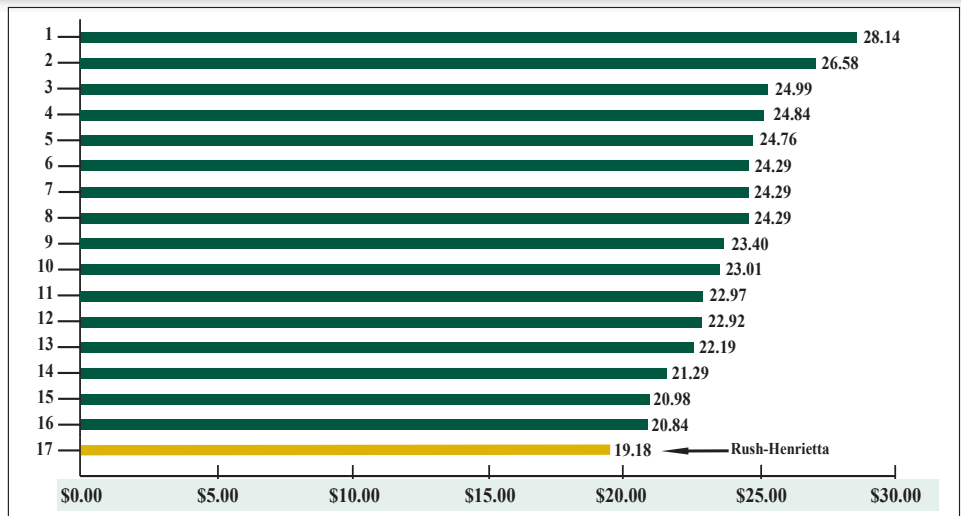
If you are a United States citizen, will be at least 18 years old by May 21, 2013, and have been a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote, you may vote. Proof of residency and personal identification is required.

## 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 "2013 Facts and Figures" published by the Monroe County School Boards Association



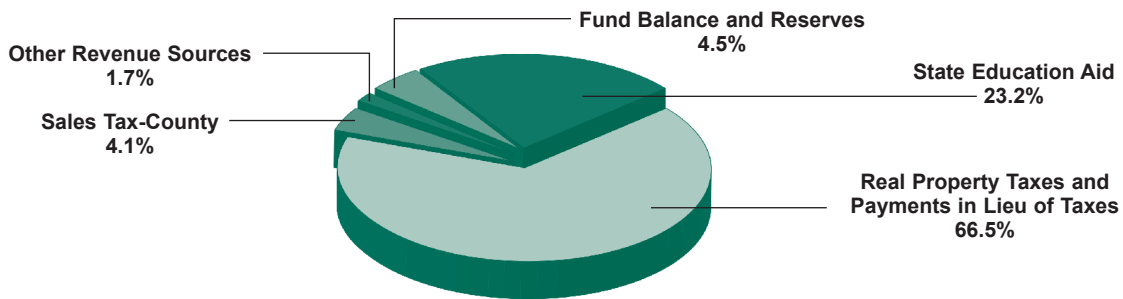


# Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

## 2013-2014 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2012-2013	2013-2014	% Change
State Education Aid	\$22,778,962	\$24,950,700	9.5
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	69,284,973	71,616,745	3.4
Sales Tax-County	4,200,000	4,390,203	4.5
Other Revenue Sources	1,791,560	1,791,439	0.0
Fund Balance and Reserves	5,845,000	4,800,000	-17.9
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$103,900,495</b>	<b>\$107,549,087</b>	<b>3.5</b>

### REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



## 2013-2014 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2013-2014 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

**Instruction: 55.4%** — 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 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.

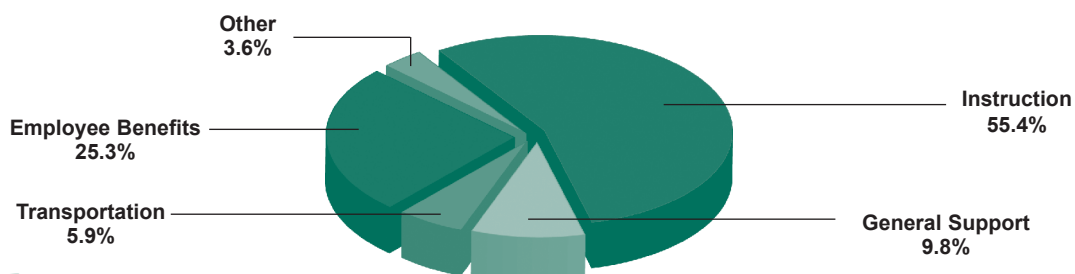
**General Support: 9.8%** — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

**Transportation: 5.9%** — 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: 25.3%** — Included in the employee benefits category are social security, retirement, insurance and the risk fund which includes unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance, disability and life insurance.

**Other: 3.6%** — A small portion of the budget is for other expenditures that include bus purchase reserve fund, community services, continuing education, special education extended year, school food services, and debt service.

### EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET





# Rush-Henrietta Central Sch

## 2013-2014 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	2012-2013	2013-2014	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	106,320	108,172	1,852
Central Administration	315,555	322,538	6,983
Finance	558,839	570,524	11,685
Legal Services	75,676	76,622	946
Personnel	490,589	495,200	4,611
Public Information	202,860	187,400	(15,460)
Other Central Services	1,084,361	1,121,238	36,877
Other Special Items	1,260,167	1,255,364	(4,803)
Curriculum Development & Supervision	1,731,068	1,654,784	(76,284)
Supervision-Regular School	2,415,476	2,570,871	155,395
Supervision-Special School	293,279	281,028	(12,251)
Research, Evaluation & Planning	360,879	358,569	(2,310)
Employee Benefits	3,072,868	3,383,052	310,184
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,967,937</b>	<b>\$12,385,362</b>	<b>\$417,425</b>

### Program Component: 78.7% of Budget

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the district's students. Programs are offered in five 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	2012-2013	2013-2014	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	54,003,815	54,558,495	554,680
In-Service Training	174,883	177,454	2,571
District Transportation	4,810,193	4,922,136	111,943
Garage Building	185,582	184,698	(884)
BOCES Transportation	1,414,452	1,242,319	(172,133)
Community Services	236,336	217,300	(19,036)
Employee Benefits	20,224,689	22,326,401	2,101,712
Other Transfers	600,000	1,000,000	400,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$81,649,950</b>	<b>\$84,628,803</b>	<b>\$2,978,853</b>

### Capital Component: 9.8% 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	2012-2013	2013-2014	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	4,262,942	4,187,042	(75,900)
Maintenance of Plant	1,914,972	1,917,560	2,588
Refund of Taxes	100,000	150,000	50,000
Other Special Items	143,217	150,377	7,160
Employee Benefits	1,333,452	1,469,367	135,915
Transfer to Capital Fund	600,000	720,000	120,000
Debt Service	1,928,025	1,940,576	12,551
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$10,282,608</b>	<b>\$10,534,922</b>	<b>\$252,314</b>

<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$103,900,495</b>	<b>\$107,549,087</b>	<b>\$3,648,592</b>
---------------------	----------------------	----------------------	--------------------



# School District Budget Proposal

## 2013-2014 Proposed Expenditures

### Instruction: 55.4% of Budget

	2012-2013	2013-2014	% Change
Salaries	43,544,824	44,017,351	1.09
Equipment	185,694	234,201	26.12
Supplies & Materials	1,147,362	1,162,665	1.33
Textbooks & Software	462,220	425,436	-7.96
Contractual Expenses	1,328,938	1,359,732	2.32
BOCES	10,058,319	10,911,999	8.49
Tuition	2,252,043	1,489,817	-33.85
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$58,979,400</b>	<b>59,601,201</b>	<b>1.05</b>

### General Support: 9.8% of Budget

	2012-2013	2013-2014	% Change
Salaries	4,156,869	4,191,651	0.84
Equipment	121,952	144,025	18.10
Supplies & Materials	630,381	640,418	1.59
Contractual Expenses	3,703,885	3,582,480	-3.28
BOCES	1,902,411	1,983,463	4.26
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10,515,498</b>	<b>10,542,037</b>	<b>0.25</b>

### Transportation: 5.9% of Budget

	2012-2013	2013-2014	% Change
Salaries	2,986,459	3,069,747	2.79
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	2,009,316	2,037,087	1.38
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	1,414,452	1,242,319	-12.17
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$6,410,227</b>	<b>6,349,153</b>	<b>-0.95</b>

### Employee Benefits: 25.3% of Budget

	2012-2013	2013-2014	% Change
Social Security	3,880,223	3,873,304	-0.18
Retirement	6,871,692	8,888,171	29.34
Insurance	13,879,094	14,417,345	3.88
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$24,631,009</b>	<b>27,178,820</b>	<b>10.34</b>

### Other: 3.6% of Budget

	2012-2013	2013-2014	% Change
Bus Purchase Reserve Fund	600,000	720,000	20.00
Community Service	236,336	217,300	-8.05
Transfer to Special Education Extended School Year	400,000	400,000	0.00
Transfer to State Schools (Blind & Deaf)	0	400,000	N/A
School Food Services	200,000	200,000	0.00
Debt Service	1,928,025	1,940,576	0.65
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,364,361</b>	<b>3,877,876</b>	<b>15.26</b>

<b>GENERAL FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>103,900,495</b>	<b>107,549,087</b>	<b>3.51</b>
----------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-------------



# 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](http://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 21. Among the questions and answers posted online:

## Q What is the property tax cap?

Although this was publicized as a 2 percent tax cap, there are many factors outlined in the law that cause the final cap to be lower or higher than 2 percent, and this amount varies in each school district. For the 2013-2014 school year, the state is allowing Rush-Henrietta to propose a 2.8 percent increase in the tax rate. However, the Board of Education believes that is unnecessary and is proposing a 2.4 percent increase. In 2011, New York state established a property tax cap that limits how much a local government or school district can increase its property tax levy each year. Under this law, the growth in the property tax levy – the total money to be raised through property taxes charged on a municipality's taxable assessed value of property – will be capped at 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Sometimes, a district is allowed to propose a tax rate increase in excess of 2 percent based on a complicated, eight-step formula created by the state. For example, in addition to the base 2 percent limit, school districts are able to add the value of new property development. They also can add to the cap for certain exemptions, including voter-approved local capital expenditures; increases in the state-mandated employer contribution rates for teacher and employee pensions that exceed 2 percent; and court orders and judgments resulting from tort actions of any amount that exceeds 5 percent of a district's current levy. Local communities have the ability to override the cap, but Rush-Henrietta has not chosen to do that.

services be provided to special education students “regardless of cost.” The state has imposed further special education requirements that add to this expense so it now costs more than three times as much to educate a special education student as it does a general education student. Another example of federal mandates is reflected in transportation. Bus prices have increased more than 25 percent during the past four years because of mandated pollution control and upgraded communications equipment. Employee wages and benefits also are affected by state mandates. In addition to these major unfunded mandates, there are hundreds of smaller ones requiring much administrative cost to implement and ensure compliance. State lawmakers can provide mandate relief by doing the following:

- Reform New York's Triborough Amendment so school districts are not required to pay wage increases under an expired contract.
- Reduce costs of special education by eliminating state mandates that exceed federal requirements.
- Establish statewide maximum health care contributions for school districts.
- Reduce or eliminate some of the hundreds of reports and compliance issues required annually by the state.

Legislative mandates add millions of dollars of cost into our school district budget each year.

## Q I keep hearing how “unfunded mandates” are driving costs for school districts. What does this mean and what unfunded mandates are included in the Rush-Henrietta budget?

Unfunded mandates are legal requirements placed upon school districts without the specific funding source to offset their cost. Both the federal and state governments impose unfunded mandates upon school districts. A good example of unfunded mandates is for special education costs where the federal government mandates that appropriate, least-restrictive educational

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

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





## You Asked...

### **Q** How will the proposed budget affect homeowners?

**A** The Board of Education's \$107.5 million budget proposal calls for a 2.4 percent increase in the true-value tax rate. A homeowner with property assessed at \$100,000 and the basic STAR exemption would pay an additional \$35 next year. A senior citizen with property assessed at \$100,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$23.

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

**A** If 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 determined by the Board of Education but must be within constraints established by law and the New York State Education Department. The largest constraint is that the property tax levy (amount of taxes raised from local property owners) cannot be any higher than the prior year's levy. In other words, a zero-dollar increase in the total amount of property taxes raised by the levy. Under these new rules, a contingency budget would present much more of a challenge than in the past. Other rules require that certain non-contingent spending items such as equipment purchases, student supplies and the cost of community use of district facilities be removed from the budget. Although the law requires no increase in the property tax levy, the Board of Education could fund increased expenditures from other revenue sources, reserves and use of fund balance. While the budget notice on page 4 shows a potential amount of contingency budget, the actual amount may be different as it is determined by the Board of Education but must be within the constraints discussed above.

### **Q** What are the major factors impacting the development of the proposed 2013-2014 budget?

**A** 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 2013-2014 budget include retirement costs, health care costs, and mandated special education costs.

### **Q** What is Rush-Henrietta doing to control costs?

**A** The school district has explored many cost-saving measures during the past few years that have resulted in substantial savings. In March 2013, Gov. Andrew Cuomo recognized the Rush-Henrietta Central School District for "implementing innovative strategies to improve the overall efficiency of school district management, while maintaining or improving student achievement." We accomplished this by consolidating central office administrative responsibilities and positions; consolidating district printers into a single contract; revising the district's health insurance plan as well as the contract for maintenance staff; and achieving district-wide energy savings through revising services." We continue to attempt to control spending in other areas. The district continues to install energy-efficient equipment such as high-efficiency school boilers and energy-efficient windows, and continues to examine bus runs to make them more efficient. 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](http://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](http://www.rhnet.org/budgettalk). Or, contact Andy Whitmore, executive director of school finance, at 359-5037 or [awhitmore@rhnet.org](mailto:awhitmore@rhnet.org).



## On May 21, 2013, 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 2013-2014 in the total amount of \$107,549,087 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

### Proposition 2

#### BUS EXPENDITURES

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

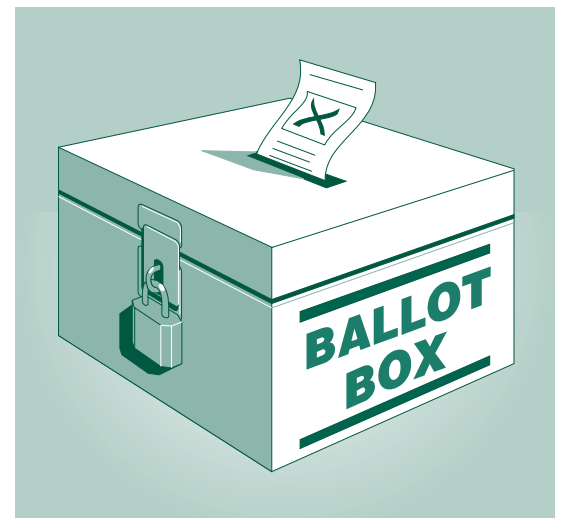
**Resolved**, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of up to \$1,300,000 to be funded by the 2009 Bus Reserve Fund for the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of district students.

### Proposition 3

#### CAPITAL 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 \$3,700,000 to be funded from \$1,757,779 in unspent funds in the Capital Fund and \$1,942,221 from the 2011 Capital Reserve Fund to complete the district's Phase III Capital Project at the Senior High School; to complete the district's Phase II Capital Project which includes the addition of a conference room on the Administration Building; and for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the school facilities and districtwide systems, including, without limitation, the Burger, Crane, Fyle, Leary, Roth, Sherman, Sperry, Vollmer, Webster, and Winslow schools; the Parker Administration Building; the West Henrietta Education Building; and the Transportation and Operations Center building, such projects to include, without limitation, sidewalk, parking lot, and bus loop replacement; carpet and flooring replacement; HVAC; ADA compliance; health, safety, and security projects; door and window replacement; freezer/cooler replacement and renovation; lighting upgrades; science laboratories; climatic conditions projects; clock system upgrades; fire alarm system upgrades; computer and media related cabling; building exterior and interior upgrades and repairs; telephone and public address systems; classroom upgrades; bathroom renovations; locker upgrades and repairs; water heater replacements; food service equipment replacement; roof replacement; auditorium refurbishment; office renovations; site improvements; electronic building security systems and security cameras; and structural projects.





## 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 21, 2013, eligible voters in Rush-Henrietta will elect two candidates to the Board of Education. The following information is provided by each candidate. A random drawing determined ballot order of candidates.



### JEAN M. CHAUDARI

72 Apache Trail, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467 • Resident of the district for 25 years

**FAMILY:** Spouse, Tariq; Daughters, Mariam, Sara, Hanna, Noreena, Jenna (alumni of Rush-Henrietta), and Annisa (Senior High School student); Son-in-law, Steve; and Granddaughters, Valentina and Nadira

**EDUCATION:** St. Agnes High School, Regents Diploma

**EMPLOYMENT:** Kids First Childcare

**HONORS/ACTIVITIES:** Member, Monroe County School Boards Association; DPAC liason; received Master of Boardmanship award from NYSSBA; received 2006 Rush-Henrietta Central School District Volunteer of the Year award.

**STATEMENT:** As a parent in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District for the past 25 years, I have worked tirelessly on

behalf of our children. This work began with volunteering as my eldest daughter entered kindergarten and continues today with my youngest daughter at the Senior High School. During my time volunteering and working in the school district I have come to know the students and families, which has become the driving force behind my desire to join the school board. I hope to continue using the knowledge I have gained to further enrich the educational experience of all Rush-Henrietta students. It takes a community dedicated to the students to make a great school district.



### PHYLLIS P. WICKERHAM

105 Biondo Court, Rush, N.Y. 14543 • Resident of the district for 26 years

**FAMILY:** Spouse, Thomas; Children, Scott Burgeson, 34, Tyler Wickerham, 22; Grandchildren, Evelyn, 21 mo., Oscar, 9 mo.

**EDUCATION:** Southwestern Central School District, Diploma

**EMPLOYMENT:** Stay-at-home grandma for two adorable grandchildren

**HONORS/ACTIVITIES:** New York State School Boards Association Master of Boardmanship Award; Family Advocates member of Heritage Christian Services

**STATEMENT:** As a member of the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education for the last six years, I have seen many changes in the way we educate students. Some of the challenges we have met are the implementation of the Common Core Learning

Standards, standards-based grading practices, the alignment of curriculum maps to these new standards, progress-monitoring teams to review student growth, and development of common assessment tools that also align with common core standards. As board members, we are responsible for making sure that the resources and supports are there to accomplish these challenges while being good stewards of its financial resources. I very much appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this team and would like the opportunity to continue working for the Rush-Henrietta community to provide a quality education for our students.

## District Seeks to Complete Work Delayed After Hurricane Katrina

On Tuesday, May 21, eligible voters will vote on the three propositions outlined on page 10. These propositions – regarding the budget, bus expenditures, and capital expenditures – appear each year during the budget vote. This year, Proposition 3, regarding capital expenditures, asks voters for permission to use money from the district's reserve funds to complete projects that were approved as part of the district's Phase II and III Facility Renovations Plan, as well as ongoing maintenance to buildings and grounds.

In 2005, the community approved a proposition to improve Burger Middle School, Roth Middle School, the Senior High School, and the Parker Administration Building. Unfortunately, construction costs skyrocketed soon after Hurricane Katrina, because of increased demands for energy and building supplies in the United States and around the world. Faced with rising costs, the district chose to be fiscally responsible and focus on completing all of the work that directly impacted children and their schools. This meant the plans the community approved for a new administration building had to be modified. That's why the administration building looks a bit unfinished as you drive down Lehigh Station Road - a vestibule and conference room near the entrance was never built. With the support of the community, we hope to finish that work next year.

On May 21, we will ask the community for permission to use reserve funds to build the vestibule and conference room and complete our Phase III renovations at the Senior High School. In addition, Proposition 3 includes money for standard improvements we make each year, such as replacing sidewalks, roofs, bus loops, windows, and much more. Neither Proposition 2 or 3 will impact the tax rate. If you have any questions, please call Andy Whitmore, executive director of school finance, at 359-5037 or [awhitmore@rhnet.org](mailto:awhitmore@rhnet.org).

# *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

## 2012-2013 Board of Education

Mrs. Diane E. McBride, President  
Mrs. Pamela J. Reinhardt, Vice President  
Mr. Robert C. Bower  
Mrs. Jean M. Chaduari  
Mrs. Rosie B. Mitchell  
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  
Postal Customer

**VOTE MAY 21**

### Voter Eligibility

- **Personal identification will be required.**
- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old by May 21, 2013.
- 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 21, 2013, 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.*

### 2013-2014 Proposed Budget: Striving for a Fiscally Sound, Educationally Responsible Budget

- Maintains instructional programs and student services
- Preserves the successful small-class-size initiative
- True value tax rate remains lowest in the county



## RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013  
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Vote at the Transportation  
and Operations Center  
1133 Lehigh Station Road

Voters will elect two members to  
the Board of Education  
and vote on three propositions:

**PROPOSITION NO. 1**  
BUDGET PROPOSITION  
\$107,549,087

**PROPOSITION NO. 2**  
BUS EXPENDITURES

**PROPOSITION NO. 3**  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES