



Budget Newsletter



Rush-Henrietta
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

May 2016

2016-2017 District Budget Proposal

Proposed Budget: \$119,935,154
Budget-to-Budget Change: 3.25%
Tax Rate Change: No More Than 1%

Developing a proposed budget is a complex task. As we developed a proposed 2016-2017 budget, we spoke with many community members to solicit their feedback. While the economy recovers, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District continues to deal with rising mandatory expenses such as health insurance and Affordable Care Act compliance. After a careful analysis that included input from many community members, Board of Education members are presenting a proposed budget they believe is educationally sound and fiscally responsible.

Rush-Henrietta is proposing a budget-to-budget increase of 3.25 percent. Under this proposal, the true value tax rate would increase by no more than 1.0 percent, within the limits established under the state's new Tax Levy 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 for more than 5,400 students
- Preserves the district's successful small-class-size initiative at elementary schools
- Provides funding for improved student access to instructional technology, new equipment for music, science, and technology, and to replace an aging dump truck and snow plow. In addition, supports further professional development efforts for instructional technology integration and covers costs associated with the increase in minimum wage.

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 \$14 next year. A senior citizen with the enhanced STAR exemption who owns a house assessed at \$100,000 would see school taxes increase by \$8 next year. In districts that stay within the tax cap, the state has enacted a property tax rebate in the amount of \$185 for taxpayers who receive the STAR exemption and have an income of \$275,000 or less.

Did You Know?

- Thanks to aggressive cost-cutting measures in recent years, if the proposed budget is approved, Rush-Henrietta's true value tax rate in 2016-2017 will be lower than it was during the 2005-2006 school year.
- Moody's Investors Service recently reaffirmed the district's Aa2 Bond Rating, citing the district's "sound financial position, stable tax base influenced by a degree of institutional presence, and a below average direct debt burden." The district's reserve funds were cited as a financial strength.
- 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, 2016

Dear Community Resident:

On Tuesday, May 17, eligible voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2016-2017 school budget adopted by the Board of Education. The proposal reflects our efforts to put forth a budget that is both educationally sound and fiscally responsible, and our continued 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. 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 conducted 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 2016-2017 ensures that all programs and services that our children receive this year will be available next year. It also includes funding to preserve the successful small-class size initiative at our elementary schools; improve student access to instructional technology; support professional development efforts for instructional technology integration; purchase equipment for music, science, and technology; replace an aging dump truck and snow plow; and cover the costs associated with the increase in minimum wage.

Maintaining all of our programs and services at current levels requires a budget of \$119.9 million, an increase of 3.25 percent compared to last year. Factors driving this increase include contractual obligations, increased health insurance costs, Affordable Care Act tax and compliance costs, state-imposed retirement system costs, increases in the minimum wage, and increased costs for BOCES services.

Three years ago, 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.” In our effort to become more efficient in recent years, we consolidated central office administrative responsibilities and positions; consolidated district printers into a single contract; revised the district’s health insurance plan; and achieved district-wide energy savings by revising services. We continue to look for these efficiencies.

Given our expense and revenue assumptions, we project a true value tax rate increase of no more than 1 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 \$14 next year, while a senior citizen with property assessed at \$100,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$8. For the past nine years, the final true value tax rate has actually been 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 17, 2016, 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 make our district a great place to learn.

Sincerely,

Diane E. McBride, President
Board of Education

Diane E. McBride, President
Sue A. Smith, Vice President
Robert C. Bower
Jean M. Chaudari
Robert L. Cook
Sean P. McCormick
Phyllis P. Wickerham

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Celebrating Student Achievement

2015 New York State Regents Results

Regents Exam	# Tested	% Passing
ASL	51	98.0
English	421	94.8
French	61	98.4
German	43	97.7
Spanish	131	96.9
CCLS Algebra	383	76.5
Geometry	321	86.6
CCLS Geometry	305	80.0
Algebra 2/Trigonometry	293	78.2
Earth Science	435	85.3
Biology	437	91.8
Chemistry	298	89.6
Physics	141	82.3
Global History and Geography	440	85.0
U.S. History and Government	423	93.6

Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement courses are offered in many academic areas. In Rush-Henrietta, our Senior High School students wrote 857 AP exams and 627 (73 percent) of the exams received a score of 3 or better. Exams are graded on scores of 1 to 5; scores of 3 and above generally are accepted for college credit. We continue to encourage our students to take advantage of these Advanced Placement offerings.

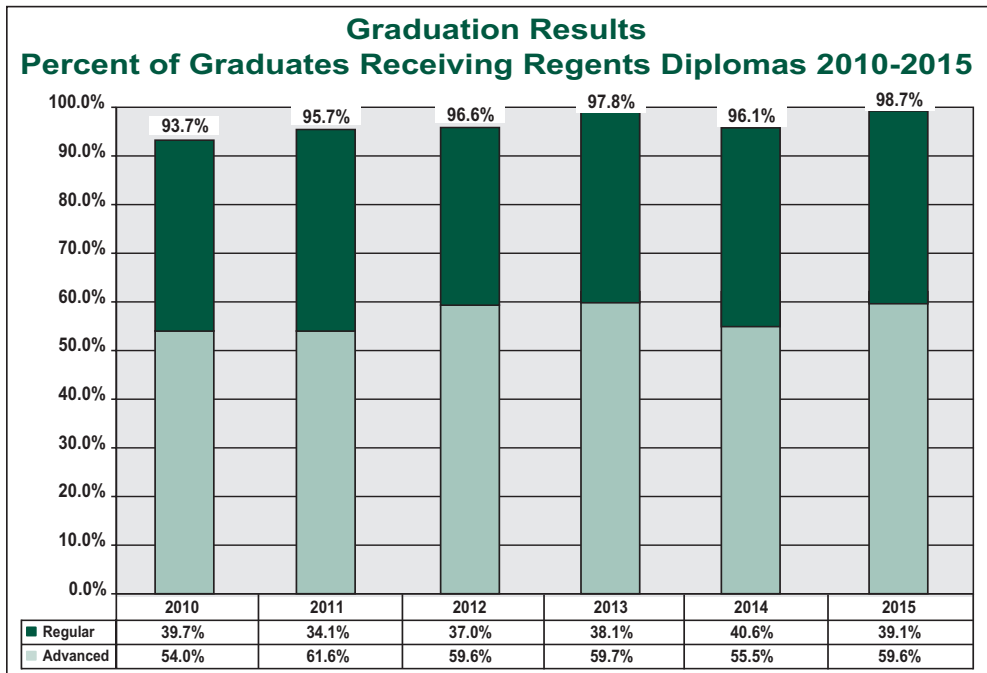


Rush-Henrietta continues to challenge its students to take more rigorous courses in an effort to increase their college readiness. For example, Rush-Henrietta requires all eighth graders to take Earth Science, a class typically taught elsewhere in ninth grade. This gives students the opportunity to take 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 2014-2015 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 Strategic Initiatives, 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 359-5042.





Rush-Henrietta Central School District - Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 116,165,006	\$ 119,935,154	\$ 118,280,916
Increase/(Decrease) for the 2016-17 School Year		\$ 3,770,148	\$ 2,115,910
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		3.25%	1.8%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$ 70,448,559	\$ 72,102,797	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C+D)	\$ 70,448,559	\$ 72,102,797	\$ 70,448,559
F. Total Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ -	\$ -	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 70,448,559	\$ 72,102,797	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F)	\$ 70,448,559	\$ 72,102,797	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 13,001,222	\$ 13,246,082	\$ 13,015,239
Program Component	\$ 88,462,519	\$ 91,232,594	\$ 89,809,199
Capital Component	\$ 14,701,265	\$ 15,456,478	\$ 15,456,478

* 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 and Capital Funds	\$ 2,200,000

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 2016-17 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$ 602

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 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, 2016, 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.

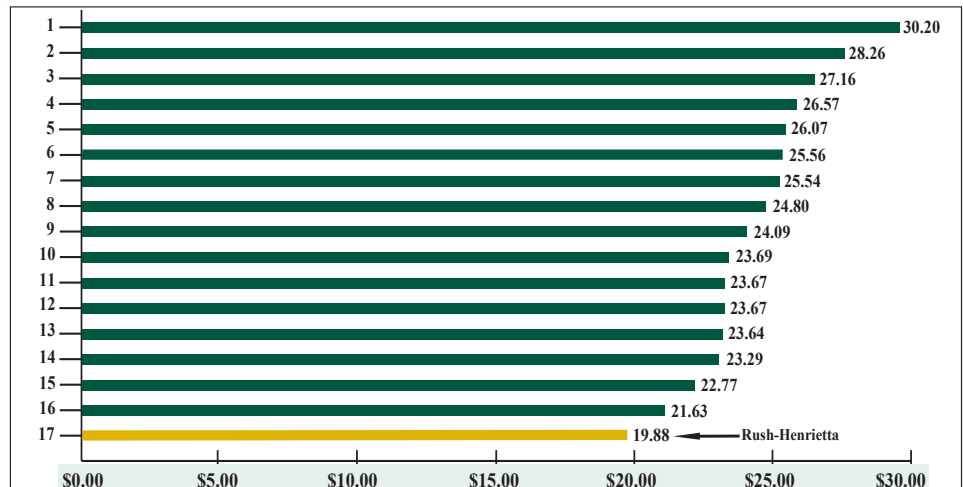
If you are a United States citizen, will be at least 18 years old by May 17, 2016, and have been a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote, you may vote. Proof of residency and personal identification is required.

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 "2016 Facts and Figures" published by the Monroe County School Boards Association



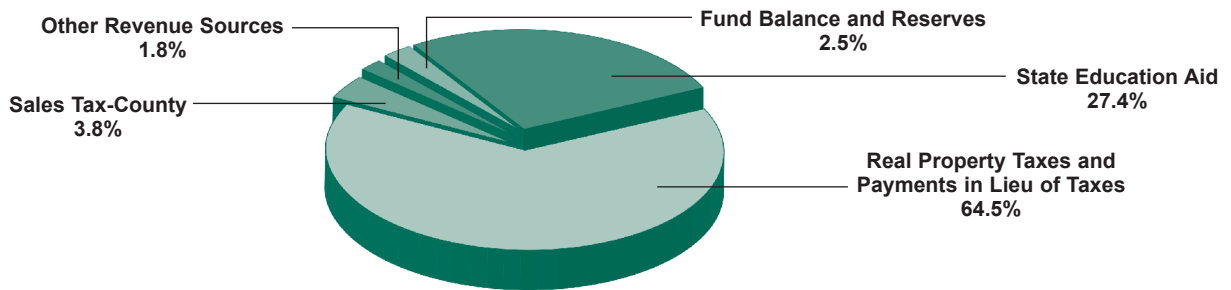


Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

2016-2017 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	% Change
State Education Aid	\$31,262,592	\$32,879,207	5.2
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	75,657,880	77,352,797	2.2
Sales Tax-County	4,523,959	4,500,000	-0.5
Other Revenue Sources	1,770,575	2,203,150	24.4
Fund Balance and Reserves	2,950,000	3,000,000	1.7
GRAND TOTALS	\$116,165,006	\$119,935,154	3.2

REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



2016-2017 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2016-2017 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

Instruction: 53.7% — 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.

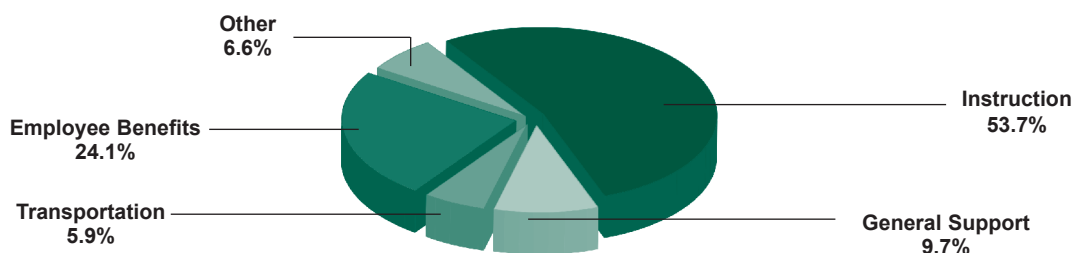
General Support: 9.7% — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of 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: 24.1% — 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: 6.6% — 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

2016 - 2017 Component Budget

Administrative Component: 10.9% 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	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	121,692	123,527	1,835
Central Administration	336,381	341,121	4,740
Finance	740,530	758,685	18,155
Legal Services	75,250	75,250	0
Personnel	435,410	460,570	25,160
Public Information	207,467	208,227	760
Other Central Services	1,241,072	1,204,264	(36,808)
Other Special Items	1,245,133	1,280,267	35,134
Curriculum Development & Supervision	1,754,942	1,952,928	197,986
Supervision-Regular School	2,627,624	2,533,199	(94,425)
Supervision-Special School	286,544	295,206	8,662
Research, Evaluation & Planning	396,686	409,040	12,354
Employee Benefits	3,532,491	3,603,798	71,307
TOTALS	\$13,001,222	\$13,246,082	\$244,860

Program Component: 76.2% 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	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	56,695,449	58,980,856	2,285,407
In-Service Training	272,130	251,835	(20,295)
District Transportation	5,314,855	5,616,055	301,200
Garage Building	177,168	179,208	2,040
BOCES Transportation	1,434,256	1,256,333	(177,923)
Community Services	172,500	159,000	(13,500)
Employee Benefits	23,346,161	23,739,307	393,146
Other Transfers	1,050,000	1,050,000	0
TOTALS	\$88,462,519	\$91,232,594	\$2,770,075

Capital Component: 12.9% 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	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	4,328,022	4,620,999	292,977
Maintenance of Plant	2,011,206	2,168,516	157,310
Refund of Taxes	215,000	215,000	0
Other Special Items	139,843	142,213	2,370
Employee Benefits	1,494,982	1,569,650	74,668
Transfer to Capital	4,631,724	4,879,637	247,913
Debt Service	1,880,488	1,860,463	(20,025)
TOTALS	\$14,701,265	\$15,456,478	\$755,213

GRAND TOTAL	\$116,165,006	\$119,935,154	\$3,770,148
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School District Budget Proposal

2016-2017 Proposed Expenditures

Instruction: 53.7% of Budget

	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	% Change
Salaries	46,695,838	48,004,070	2.8%
Equipment	453,195	540,195	19.2%
Supplies & Materials	1,200,479	1,245,990	3.8%
Textbooks & Software	439,517	415,200	-5.5%
Contractual Expenses	1,286,214	1,453,577	13.0%
BOCES	10,641,220	11,525,099	8.3%
Tuition	1,316,912	1,249,611	-5.1%
Totals	62,033,375	64,433,742	3.9%

General Support: 9.7% of Budget

	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	% Change
Salaries	4,508,859	4,649,841	3.1%
Equipment	148,087	323,087	118.2%
Supplies & Materials	656,149	656,149	0.0%
Contractual Expenses	3,765,811	3,960,547	5.2%
BOCES	2,018,100	2,009,015	-0.5%
Totals	11,097,006	11,598,639	4.5%

Transportation: 5.9% of Budget

	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	% Change
Salaries	3,399,860	3,643,100	7.2%
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	2,092,163	2,112,163	1.0%
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	1,434,256	1,296,333	-9.6%
Totals	6,926,279	7,051,596	1.8%

Employee Benefits: 24.1% of Budget

	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	% Change
Social Security	3,983,749	4,166,841	4.6%
Retirement	8,054,706	7,276,359	-9.7%
Insurance	16,335,179	17,458,877	6.9%
Totals	28,373,634	28,902,077	1.9%

Other: 6.6% of Budget

	2015-2016 As Amended	2016-2017	% Change
Bus Purchase & Capital Transfers	4,631,724	4,879,637	5.4%
Community Service	172,500	159,000	-7.8%
Transfer to Special Education Extended School Year	400,000	400,000	0.0%
Transfer to State Schools (Blind & Deaf)	400,000	400,000	0.0%
Transfer to School Food Services	250,000	250,000	0.0%
Debt Service	1,880,488	1,860,463	-1.1%
Totals	7,734,712	7,949,100	2.8%

GENERAL FUND TOTALS	116,165,006	119,935,154	3.2%
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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:

Q **What is the property tax cap?**

A 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. 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 2016-2017 school year, the state is allowing Rush-Henrietta to propose a 2.3 percent increase in the tax levy; this is based on the rate of inflation of .01 percent, plus a growth factor of 2.26 percent for all of the new housing and commercial development within the district. Because of new development, the tax rate increase will be no more than 1.0 percent.

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?**

A 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 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. In addition, regarding health insurance, the district now pays more than \$500,000 per year in taxes mandated by the Affordable Care Act. Another example of federal mandates is reflected in transportation. Bus prices have increased more than 45 percent during the past five 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.

Legislative mandates continue to add new state programs and millions of dollars of associated costs to our school district budget. One example is the increase in the minimum wage. This increase could cause the district to reduce services to students to fund the increased wages and accompanying benefit costs. In conjunction with the tax cap, these unfunded mandates could result in reduced opportunities for our students.

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

A 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.

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

A The Board of Education's \$119.9 million budget proposal calls for a 1.0 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 \$14 next year. A senior citizen with property assessed at \$100,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$8.



You Asked...

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 2016-2017 budget?

A Despite careful and conservative planning, much of the financial landscape remains unclear. The major factors under consideration for the development of the 2016-2017 budget include contractual 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 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. In addition, Rush-Henrietta works with other local school districts to save money, especially through cooperative bidding, and forming a cooperative, self-insured health insurance plan to eliminate more than \$500,000 per year in Affordable Care Act taxes."

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, assistant superintendent for school finance and operations, at 359-5037 or awhitmore@rhnet.org.



On May 17, 2016, Eligible Voters Will Vote On...

Propositions 2 and 3 will NOT affect the tax rate.

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 2016-2017 in the total amount of \$119,935,154 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 \$2,200,000 to be funded by \$600,000 from the 2009 Bus Reserve Fund and the balance from existing Capital Fund bus purchase funds for the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of district students.

Proposition 3 2016 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District be authorized to establish a reserve fund for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair and equipping of school buildings, and facilities and site improvements in accordance with Education Law Section 3651, to be designated as the 2016 Capital Reserve Fund, over a

probable term of 10 years, but to continue for its stated purpose until liquidated according to Education Law or until its funds are exhausted, the ultimate amount of such fund to be \$15,000,000, the source of which shall be determined by the Board of Education including any and all state aid and any and all federal and state funds available by grant or otherwise generated by projects for construction, renovation, reconstruction, rehabilitation or repair of school facilities, any identified General Fund balance, any identified surplus funds in previously established capital reserve funds, other reserve funds, and interest earnings.

Update on School Reconfiguration

With school reconfiguration slated to begin in September 2017, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District would like to provide our community with this update.

- **Facility Renovation:** State approval of the district's renovation plans for Sherman, Vollmer, and Burger is expected soon. To keep these projects on schedule, the Board of Education authorized bid solicitation in February 2016. Construction bidding has been completed and work will begin when state authorization is received.
- **Vollmer Learning Center Transition:** The Vollmer Learning Center must be vacated for renovation by August 2016. Programs located at Vollmer will be relocated to other sites when schools close in June. Most Vollmer programs ((Alternative High School, Tutoring Center, Special Education Transition Program, R-H School Age Child Care, Family Center, Even Start, and Adult Literacy) will be relocated to the former Good Shepherd School on East Henrietta Road. The Universal Pre-K program will be relocated to Sherman. The District Registrar and Superintendent's Hearing Room will be relocated to the Carlton Webster Building (NGA). The district's Nurse Practitioner will be relocated to the Parker Administration Building.

- **Program Advisory Teams:** Primary, Intermediate, Junior High School, and Senior High School Program Advisory Teams, consisting of teachers, school administrators and other school staff members, have been meeting since September to review the Board of Education's initial plans for school reconfiguration, and to recommend modifications. Program Advisory Teams will complete their work in May.
- **Staff Transition:** School staff will be informed about September 2017 school placements in June. This notification will provide our school staff with a full-year to plan for transition and participate in planning for the opening of their new school.
- **Student Transition:** All parents with students required to change schools because of school reconfiguration have been contacted about early transition and age-out opportunities. All permissible transition requests are being accommodated.
- **PTO Transition:** A plan for disbursing next year's year-end fund balances from current to new parent teacher organizations based on student enrollment has been agreed upon. The district also has agreed to facilitate the establishment of parent teacher organizations for each new school in January 2017.

In addition, all elementary school playgrounds have been reviewed for age-appropriateness and comparability. Modifications will be made this summer at Sherman and Vollmer, at the district's expense, to ensure that the playgrounds are appropriate.

- **Wrap-Around Child Care:** A plan for merging the district's School-Age Child Care Program and the Town of Henrietta's After-School Recreation Program into a single Wrap-Around Child Care Program was endorsed by the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education and Town of Henrietta Board in January. This plan provides affordable school-age child care before and after school at each of the district's primary (K-3) and intermediate (4-6) schools. The plan will be posted on the district's website this spring.
- **Transportation:** Two transportation policies are now being reviewed by the Board of Education: (1) walk-ride distances, and (2) out-of-area child care transportation. A shorter walk-ride distance (0.1 mile) is being considered for students attending the new primary schools (instead of 0.2 mile). Limitations for out-of-attendance area child care transportation are also being considered. Board action on possible policy changes will be scheduled in the fall.

Candidates Vie for Two Board of Education Seats

To view the candidates' honors and activities, please visit www.rhnet.org/boeinfo

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, 2016, 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.



RHONDA M. DELANEY 626 Erie Station Road, West Henrietta, N.Y. 14586 • Resident of the district for 26 years

FAMILY: Spouse, Donald; Children, Jeffery, 22, Molly, 19, and Annie, 14

EDUCATION: Onondaga Community College, Associates Degree Cum Laude

EMPLOYMENT: Dental Hygienist for Michael Speck, DDS, and Wendell Hall, DDS

STATEMENT: *Running for the Board of Education is a decision I've contemplated for quite some time. Involved in the district for over 20 years on multiple committees, I've collaborated with parents, staff and students to improve various aspects of the learning environment. Many have given much, and our district has blossomed! We have seen solid improvements not only in the area of student achievement, but also with three phases of construction within our facilities, all while maintaining a fiscally sound budget. Looking to the future, there are more changes*

coming with implementing the reconfiguration of schools, full-day kindergarten, maintaining financial stability and most importantly continuing to prepare students for success. Throughout the years, I've strived to do what's best for all kids and I'm grateful for the opportunities I've been given. If elected, I'll work as part of the team to continue to make Rush-Henrietta a great place to learn.



ROBERT C. LOGEL 35 Fitzpatrick Trail, West Henrietta, N.Y. 14586 • Resident of the district for 13 years

FAMILY: Spouse, Lynn; Children, Stephanie, 11, and Jason, 9

EDUCATION: Warren National University, B.S., Electrical Engineering

EMPLOYMENT: Financial Advisor, Centra Financial Group

STATEMENT: *I am qualified to serve on the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education because I have been involved in the district on many different levels for the past seven years. Currently, I'm a member of Sherman Elementary PTA and Burger Middle School PTO. I'm also involved in committees, including Sherman PTA Audit Committee and the District's Finance and Audit Committee. In addition, I represented Sherman at the Budget Advisory Council for one year. Afterward, I was asked to serve as Chairman of the BAC for the last four years. I offer a lot of well-rounded experience to the Board. The main reason I'm prompted to run for a school board seat is plain and simple... the children. I'm a vested*

member of the community and my kids attend Rush-Henrietta. I want to be a part of the decisions that affect the good of all our children.



SIMEON I. BANISTER 160 Murphy Place, West Henrietta, N.Y. 14586 • Years as resident not provided

FAMILY: Spouse, Akilah; Son, Julian, 3

EDUCATION: NC Central University, B.A.; Princeton Theological Seminary, M. Div.

EMPLOYMENT: Commercial Real Estate Appraiser at Midland Appraisal Associates Inc.

STATEMENT: *As my son prepares to enter the district, I am enthusiastic about the positive outlook for our students. Our district has many strengths, including talented and professional teachers, a stable and varied tax base, and wonderful diversity. Many of the changes that have been initiated to educate more of our children earlier, effectively manage costs, and reconfigure our schools are smart strategic choices. Yet it is up to a creative board with varying perspectives to capitalize on our district's strengths and to ensure that the implementation of these programs produces the intended outcomes while spending within our means. If you choose to send me to the board, I'll listen to our students,*

teachers, and staff. I'll be attentive to parents, transparent with taxpayers, and I'll encourage the district, whenever feasible, to spend as much of its budget locally, so that we can stimulate our local economy and create more jobs.



PHYLLIS P. WICKERHAM 105 Biondo Court, Rush, N.Y. 14543 • Resident of the district for 29 years

FAMILY: Spouse, Thomas; Children, Scott Burgeson, 37; Tyler Wickerham, 25; Grandchildren, Evelyn, 4, and Oscar, 3

EDUCATION: Southwestern Central School District, Regents Diploma

EMPLOYMENT: Retired; Lead Sales Associate at LL Bean Inc.

STATEMENT: *As a member of the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education for the last nine 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 we move forward on a comprehensive plan to reorganize our schools to address the issues of enrollment imbalances and the recognized need for full-day kindergarten, I believe that a consistent and*

informed leadership is needed to perform this important work. I would be honored to continue serving our community as a member of the Board.



ANNMARIE STRZYZYNSKI 71 Derrick Drive, West Henrietta, N.Y. 14586 • Resident of the district for 39 years

FAMILY: Spouse, Mark; Children, Steven, 25, and Sara, 23

EDUCATION: Monroe Community College A.S., Liberal Arts, SUNY Empire, B.S., Community Health

EMPLOYMENT: Lifetime Assistance Inc., Staff Development Specialist

STATEMENT: *My husband, children, and I are lifelong residents of Henrietta, all graduating from R-H. I spent a lot of time volunteering in various capacities while my children were in school and enjoyed it. I heard there was to be an opening on the Board of Education and felt that it would give me the opportunity to learn something new and give something back to the community. I do not have experience that would qualify me more than another for this position, but I am honest, hard-working, and objective. I am familiar with working in groups, finding solutions to problems, and have experience with curriculum, adult learners, and those with disabilities. I enjoy learning and this would provide*

the opportunity to continue my growth while giving back to the community that has been the life we have known.

Rush-Henrietta Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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Henrietta, New York 14467
(585) 359-5000
www.rhnet.org

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Mr. Robert L. Cook
Mr. Sean P. McCormick
Mrs. Phyllis P. Wickerham

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr.

Published by the Office of Community Relations

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, 2016.
- 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, 2016, 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.

2016-2017 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 17, 2016
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
\$119,935,154

PROPOSITION NO. 2
BUS EXPENDITURES

PROPOSITION NO. 3
2016 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Propositions 2 and 3 will NOT
affect the tax rate.