



Budget Newsletter



Rush-Henrietta
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

May 2017

2017-2018 District Budget Proposal

Proposed Budget: \$124,717,502
Budget-to-Budget Change: 3.99%
Tax Rate Change: No More Than 1.98%

Developing a proposed budget is a complex task. As we developed a proposed 2017-2018 budget, we spoke with many community members to solicit their feedback. The Rush-Henrietta Central School District continues to deal with rising mandatory expenses such as health insurance and services to students with disabilities and English language learners. 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 3.99 percent. Included in the recommended budget is \$1.8 million for the cost of transitioning to full-day kindergarten. This is offset by a one-time-only state grant to any district undertaking a conversion to full-day kindergarten. Without this one-time expense, the budget increase would have been 2.49 percent. Under this proposal, the true value tax rate would increase by no more than 1.98 percent, and the total tax levy would be 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 5,300 students
- Preserves the district's successful small-class-size initiative at elementary schools
- Provides for full-day kindergarten and school reconfiguration
- Improves student access to instructional technology
- Allows us to serve more students with disabilities and English language learners

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 \$27 annually. A senior citizen with the enhanced STAR exemption who owns a house assessed at \$100,000 would see school taxes increase by \$14 annually. Because the district is staying within the tax cap, these increases will be offset by a rebate from New York state. This rebate will range from approximately \$167 for homeowners with income under \$75,000 to \$33 for homeowners with income up to \$275,000.

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 2017-2018 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 16



From the Board of Education

May 1, 2017

Dear Community Resident:

On Tuesday, May 16, eligible voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 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 next year at our K-3 schools; provides for full-day kindergarten and school reconfiguration; improves student access to instructional technology; allows us to serve an increasing number of students with disabilities and English language learners; reallocates funds to replace all automatic electronic defibrillators on a four-year cycle; and reallocates funds to expand services provided by the strength and conditioning coach.

Maintaining all of our programs and services at current levels requires a budget of \$124.7 million, an increase of 3.99 percent compared to last year. Factors driving this increase include contractual obligations, increased health insurance costs, and an increase in the number of special education students and English language learners attending our schools.

Included in the recommended budget is \$1.8 million for the cost of transitioning to full-day kindergarten. This is offset by a one-time-only state grant to any district undertaking a conversion to full-day kindergarten. Without this one-time expense, the budget increase would have been 2.49 percent.

Board members knew from the start of the school year that this would be a challenging budget-development season. Early on, the gap between projected expenses and revenues was in the millions of dollars. We have worked diligently to reduce expenses where we could. For example, we have proposed a \$360,000 reduction in out-of-attendance-area transportation expenses; a \$200,000 reduction in instructional technology funding; and a \$150,000 reduction in capital reserve funding. In addition, our proposed budget includes more than \$500,000 in staffing reductions. This is being accomplished by not filling staff positions as they are vacated, a technique called attrition. The district thus far has avoided the need for staff layoffs.

Given our expense and revenue assumptions, we project a true value tax rate increase of 1.98 percent. As in previous years, our tax rate will remain 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 \$27 annually, while a senior citizen with property assessed at \$100,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$14 annually. For the past 10 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 16, 2017, at the Transportation and Operations Center at the corner of Lehigh Station and Middle roads. You do not need to own property in the district, however, a valid form of identification – such as a driver’s license or other government-issued photo ID, along with proof of residency – is required to participate. Proof of residency must show street address.

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,

Robert L. Cook, President
Board of Education

Robert L. Cook, President	rcook@rhnet.org	359-1921
Sean P. McCormick, Vice President	smcormick@rhnet.org	359-1281
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Diane E. McBride	dmcbride@rhnet.org	334-0272
Sue A. Smith	sasmith@rhnet.org	334-6563
Annmarie Strzyzynski	astrzyzynski@rhnet.org	359-2426



Celebrating Student Achievement

2016 New York State Regents Results

Regents Exam	# Tested	% Passing
ASL	53	98.1
English	375	95.5
French	54	100.0
German	38	97.4
Spanish	118	99.2
CCLS Algebra	452	90.7
CCLS Geometry	313	85.3
CCLS Algebra 2	217	96.8
Earth Science	433	80.4
Biology	418	92.8
Chemistry	293	91.1
Physics	147	72.8
Global History and Geography	457	84.2
U.S. History and Government	395	94.2

Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement courses are offered in many academic areas. In Rush-Henrietta, our Senior High School students wrote 702 AP exams and 553 (78.7 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.

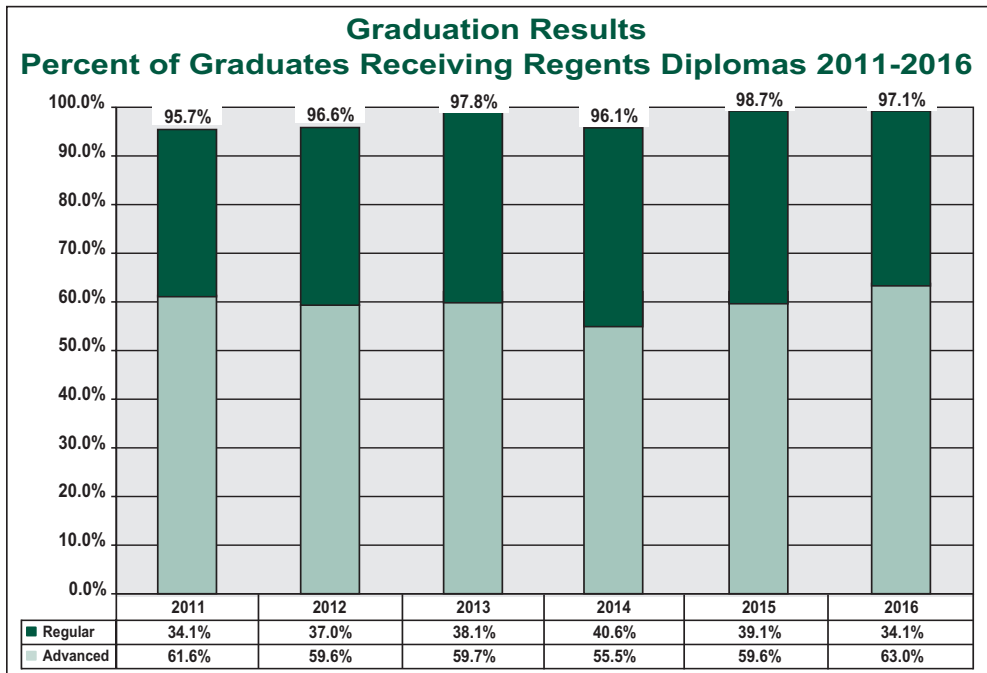


Rush-Henrietta continues to challenge its students to take more rigorous courses in an effort to increase their college readiness. For example, Rush-Henrietta requires all eighth graders to take Earth Science, a class typically taught elsewhere in ninth grade. This gives students the opportunity to take 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 2015-2016 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

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 119,935,154	\$ 124,717,502	\$ 122,457,858
Increase/(Decrease) for the 2017-18 School Year		\$ 4,782,348	\$ 2,522,704
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		3.99%	2.10%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 72,102,797	\$ 74,962,441	
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)	\$ 72,102,797	\$ 74,962,441	\$ 72,102,797
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ -	\$ -	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 72,102,797	\$ 74,962,441	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 72,102,797	\$ 74,962,441	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 13,246,082	\$ 14,153,992	\$ 13,293,083
Program Component	\$ 91,232,594	\$ 93,911,145	\$ 93,088,954
Capital Component	\$ 15,456,478	\$ 16,652,365	\$ 16,075,821

* 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	\$ 2,200,000
Capital Expenditure for Repairs and Renovations	\$ 7,000,000

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 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$ 607

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 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 16, 2017, 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.

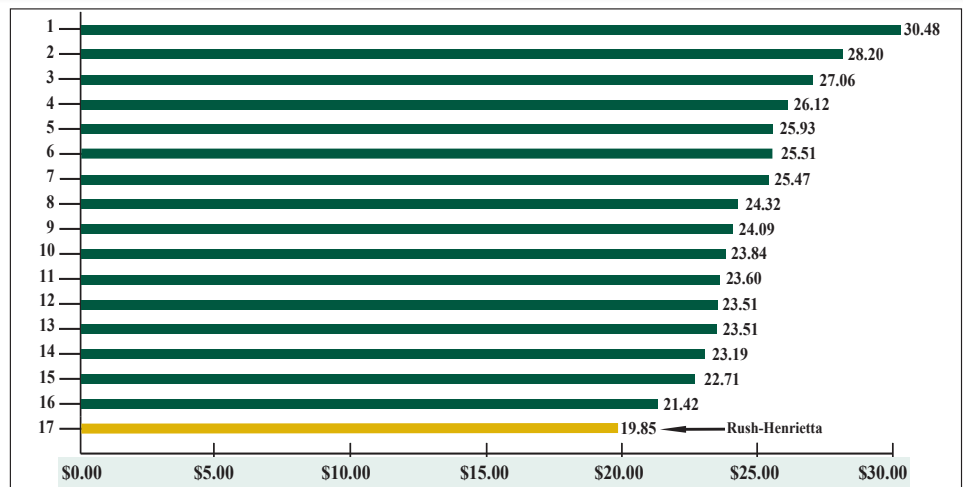
If you are a United States citizen, will be at least 18 years old by May 16, 2017, and have been a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote, you may vote. Proof of residency and personal identification is required. Proof of residency must show street address where you live.

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 "2017 Facts and Figures" published by the Monroe County School Boards Association



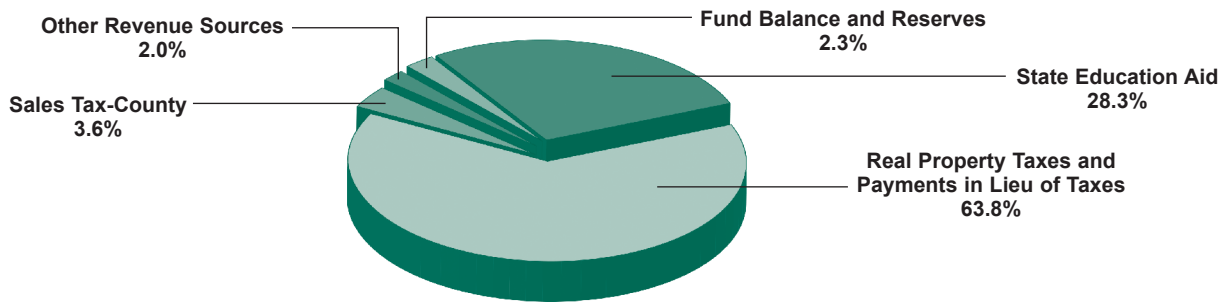


Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

2017-2018 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2016-2017	2017-2018	% Change
State Education Aid	\$32,879,207	\$35,287,401	7.3
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	77,352,797	79,612,441	2.9
Sales Tax-County	4,500,000	4,500,000	0.0
Other Revenue Sources	2,203,150	2,467,660	12.0
Fund Balance and Reserves	3,000,000	2,850,000	-5.0
GRAND TOTALS	\$119,935,154	\$124,717,502	3.99

REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



2017-2018 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2017-2018 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

Instruction: 52.9% — 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.

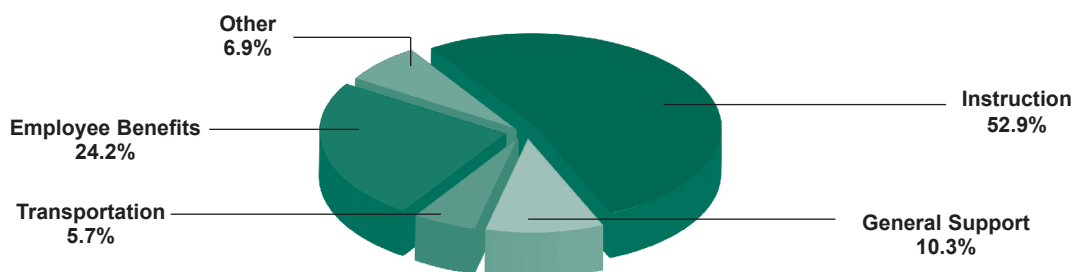
General Support: 10.3% — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

Transportation: 5.7% — 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: 24.2% — Included in the employee benefits category are social security, retirement, health insurance and the risk fund which includes unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance, disability and life insurance.

Other: 6.9% — A small portion of the budget is for other expenditures that include capital 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

2017-2018 Component Budget

Administrative Component: 11.3% 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	2016-2017	2017-2018	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	123,527	123,569	42
Central Administration	341,121	346,768	5,647
Finance	758,685	1,167,726	409,041
Legal Services	75,250	76,400	1,150
Personnel	460,570	602,339	141,769
Public Information	208,227	201,807	(6,420)
Other Central Services	1,204,264	1,311,727	107,463
Other Special Items	1,280,267	1,364,703	84,436
Curriculum Development & Supervision	1,952,928	1,834,168	(118,760)
Supervision-Regular School	2,533,199	2,766,153	232,954
Supervision-Special School	295,206	289,488	(5,718)
Research, Evaluation & Planning	409,040	419,844	10,804
Employee Benefits	3,603,798	3,649,300	45,502
TOTALS	\$13,246,082	\$14,153,992	\$907,910

Program Component: 75.3% of Budget

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the district's students. Programs are offered in four primary buildings, two intermediate buildings, two junior high schools, and one high school. Funds are also included in this component for transporting students.

Function or Account	2016-2017	2017-2018	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	58,980,856	60,285,757	1,304,901
In-Service Training	251,835	277,274	25,439
District Transportation	5,616,055	5,831,292	215,237
Garage Building	179,208	181,612	2,404
BOCES Transportation	1,256,333	1,150,156	(106,177)
Community Services	159,000	171,000	12,000
Employee Benefits	23,739,307	24,914,054	1,174,747
Other Transfers	1,050,000	1,100,000	50,000
TOTALS	\$91,232,594	\$93,911,145	\$2,678,551

Capital Component: 13.4% 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 funding bus purchases, "debt service" payments on capital projects (principal and interest payments) and for refund of taxes for claims against property assessments.

Function or Account	2016-2017	2017-2018	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	4,620,999	4,816,180	195,181
Maintenance of Plant	2,168,516	2,495,410	326,894
Refund of Taxes	215,000	215,000	0
Other Special Items	142,213	145,303	3,090
Employee Benefits	1,569,650	1,618,572	48,922
Transfer to Capital	4,879,637	5,634,637	755,000
Debt Service	1,860,463	1,727,263	(133,200)
TOTALS	\$15,456,478	\$16,652,365	\$1,195,887

GRAND TOTAL	\$119,935,154	\$124,717,502	\$4,782,348
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School District Budget Proposal

2017-2018 Proposed Expenditures

Instruction: 52.9% of Budget

	2016-2017	2017-2018	% Change
Salaries	48,004,070	48,045,997	0.1%
Equipment	540,195	284,321	-47.4%
Supplies & Materials	1,245,990	1,193,015	-4.3%
Textbooks & Software	415,200	595,200	43.4%
Contractual Expenses	1,453,577	1,415,084	-2.6%
BOCES	11,525,099	12,571,697	9.1%
Tuition	1,249,611	1,767,370	41.4%
Totals	64,433,742	65,872,684	2.2%

General Support: 10.3% of Budget

	2016-2017	2017-2018	% Change
Salaries	4,649,841	4,875,370	4.9%
Equipment	323,087	326,544	1.1%
Supplies & Materials	656,149	933,844	42.3%
Contractual Expenses	3,960,547	4,511,406	13.9%
BOCES	2,009,015	2,219,768	10.5%
Totals	11,598,639	12,866,932	10.9%

Transportation: 5.7% of Budget

	2016-2017	2017-2018	% Change
Salaries	3,643,100	4,044,590	11.0%
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contractual	2,112,163	1,928,314	-8.7%
BOCES,Public,Contract Transportation	1,296,333	1,190,156	-8.2%
Totals	7,051,596	7,163,060	1.6%

Employee Benefits: 24.2% of Budget

	2016-2017	2017-2018	% Change
Social Security	4,166,841	4,362,370	4.7%
Retirement	7,276,359	6,396,638	-12.1%
Insurance	17,458,877	19,422,918	11.2%
Totals	28,902,077	30,181,926	4.4%

Other: 6.9% of Budget

	2016-2017	2017-2018	% Change
Bus Purchase & Capital Transfers	4,879,637	5,634,637	15.5%
Community Service	159,000	171,000	7.5%
Transfer to Special Education Extended School Year	400,000	400,000	0.0%
Transfer to State Schools (Blind & Deaf)	400,000	450,000	12.5%
Transfer to School Food Services	250,000	250,000	0.0%
Debt Service	1,860,463	1,727,263	-7.2%
Totals	7,949,100	8,632,900	8.6%

GENERAL FUND TOTALS	119,935,154	124,717,502	3.99%
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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 16. 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.

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. Many of these mandates are well-founded, but they are expensive. 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 \$124.7 million budget proposal calls for a 1.98 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 \$27 annually. A senior citizen with property assessed at \$100,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$14 annually.*

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



You Asked...

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 2017-2018 budget?**

A Despite careful and conservative planning, much of the financial landscape remains unclear. The major factors under consideration for the development of the 2017-2018 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 the past, 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.

* Because the district is staying within the tax cap, these increases will be offset by a rebate from New York state. This rebate will range from approximately \$167 for homeowners with income under \$75,000 to \$33 for homeowners with income up to \$275,000.

** Please note that the proposed budget includes \$1.8 million in one-time revenue to cover the one-time conversion costs to implement full-day kindergarten. This conversion cost inflates both the revenue and expenses side of the budget. Otherwise, the budget increase would be less than 2.5 percent, growth driven primarily by an increase in the number of special education students and English language learners, as well as an increase in health insurance costs.

*** In preparing this proposed budget, the district has reduced expenses where it could. For example, the proposal calls for a \$360,000 reduction in out-of-attendance-area transportation expenses; a \$200,000 reduction in instructional technology funding; and a \$150,000 reduction in capital reserve funding. In addition, \$900,000 of budgeted funds not being expended this year have been removed from the proposed budget. The proposed budget also includes more than \$500,000 in staffing reductions. This is being accomplished by not filling staff positions as they are vacated, a technique called attrition. The district thus far has avoided the need for involuntary staff layoffs.

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 16, 2017, 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 2017-2018 in the total amount of \$124,717,502 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 from the balance in existing Capital Fund bus purchase funds and the General Fund Transfers 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 \$7,000,000 to be funded from remaining unused balances in prior capital projects and from the 2015 Capital Reserve Fund 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; fueling facility upgrades; carpet and flooring replacement; HVAC; ADA compliance; health, safety, and security projects; door and window replacement; freezer/cooler replacement and renovation; lighting upgrades; classroom upgrades; 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; lavatory renovations and installation; purchase of equipment; locker upgrades and repairs; water heater replacements; boiler replacements; food service equipment replacement; roof replacement; auditorium refurbishment; office renovations; site improvements; electronic building security systems and security cameras; energy conservation; and structural projects.

Update on School Reconfiguration

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

• **Student Assignments:** This winter, each student registered with the district for the 2017-2018 school year received a letter in the mail from their principal outlining which school they will attend next September, as well as additional information to help make this as smooth a transition as possible. School start and end times were shared once again. This information is available on the district website at www.rhnet.org/reconfiguration.

• **Student Transportation:** Bus routes for September 2017 have been established. Bus drivers began testing new routes for next year during April recess and will do so again after the school year concludes in June. An additional workday in August has been added so drivers can have another day to practice.

• **Facility Renovations:** Building renovations are progressing. Renovations at Vollmer and Burger will be completed by July 2017. Renovations at Sherman will be completed by August 2017, except for one music room that will be completed in September.

• **Wrap-Around Child Care:** Registration materials and responses to frequently asked questions about the district's before-and-after-school child care program (Cub Care Zone) are posted on the district's website at www.rhnet.org/cubcare. The first round of registration was completed during February and March. More than 400 students have been registered. Registration is open again through May 31, 2017. For information, call the Office of Continuing Education at 359-7805.

• **Program Advisory Teams:** Primary, Intermediate, Junior High, and Senior High Program Advisory Teams, consisting of teachers, school administrators, and employee association leaders have completed their work. Program Advisory Teams reviewed and offered recommendations for administrative guidelines that will be used to organize and manage the new schools. These administrative guidelines have been reviewed and endorsed by the Board of Education.

• **Curriculum Development:** At grades K-6, integrated curriculum maps have been developed to streamline core content instruction aligned with literacy instruction. Performance-based tasks for assessing ELA and content skills with one task are being developed. In addition, the curriculum for full-day kindergarten has been developed and ReadyGen, a comprehensive resource for ELA instruction, has been selected by teachers for use in grades 4-6 during the upcoming school year. At grades 7-9, curriculum maps are being revised to guide daily core content instruction and new elective courses are being developed.

• **Staff Transition:** Elementary and junior high school staff members have received their teaching assignments for September 2017. Senior High School staff members will receive their teaching assignments later this spring. Two days to prepare for transition have been scheduled for June. One of these days replaces the April 3 conference day that had to be used as a school make-up day. A consultant has been hired to establish protocols and timelines for transitioning materials and equipment to the new schools. This transition plan will be completed in early May.

• **Professional Development:** Professional development for full-day kindergarten teachers is in progress. Best instructional practices for the full-day experience, including more in-depth ELA and math instruction, are being emphasized. For teachers transitioning to new grade levels and courses, guidance and support in using new curriculum and resources is being embedded within department meetings, grade-level meetings, and conference periods. Additional training is being provided to individual teachers and teacher teams upon request.

• **PTO Transition:** Last year, parent group leaders agreed on a plan for disbursing year-end fund balances from current to new parent-teacher organizations based on weighted student transition. In January, parent group leaders met with the superintendent to plan parent group reorganization. All new parent groups will be meeting this spring to plan next year's activities. Parent group meeting locations and times are posted on the district website.

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 16, 2017, 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.



PHYLLIS P. WICKERHAM RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT: 30 years

FAMILY: Spouse: Thomas; Children: Scott Burgeson, 38; Tyler Wickerham, 26; Grandchildren: Oscar, 4

EDUCATION: Southwestern Central School District, Regents Diploma

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

HONORS/ACTIVITIES: Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education trustee, 2007-2016; New York State School Boards Association Master of Boardsmanship Award and Board Lifetime Achievement Certification; liaison to District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC); liaison to District Health & Safety committee; and member of Heritage Christian Services Family Advocates.

STATEMENT: *As an active member of the Rush-Henrietta school community for almost 30 years, I have watched the district grow to become a highly respected leader in education. As a member of the board, I will support quality programs and services for our students, including continuing the small-class-size initiative and access for all students to instructional technology. In addition, as the district moves forward on the comprehensive plan to reorganize our schools, my prior experience on the board provides me the knowledge and background to assure its consistent and informed implementation. Having served in many leadership roles in our community and having been a member of the board for nine years, I would like to return to the board to continue working with the very committed community of district leaders to ensure a high-quality education with love and support at its core.*



JENNIFER LAIRD RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT: 47 years

FAMILY: Spouse: Jeff; Children: Hannah, 16, and Emily, 14

EDUCATION: Nazareth College, B.S., History; Nazareth College, M.S., Elementary Education

EMPLOYMENT: Intermediate Teacher, Grade 5, Rochester City School District

HONORS/ACTIVITIES: I enjoy photography and scrapbooking family events and trips. I love to attend plays and musicals on the weekends with my family. I also attend different dance competitions around the area with my daughters.

STATEMENT: *I am a lifelong resident of Henrietta and a graduate of Rush-Henrietta. With two girls of my own in the district and a husband of 19 years, I look forward to serving the community. I have worked as a Rochester City School District teacher for the past 18 years. I regularly attend PTO meetings at the high school and middle school levels, where I stay informed of school functions. I enjoy being a chaperone of extra-curricular activities. I want to do more within the district to ensure our children have the ability to succeed after graduation. I want to make sure tax dollars are spent responsibly. I would like to see greater transparency and more opportunities for board members to visit schools and engage with students and educators. I feel that I can bring several different perspectives to the school board as a mother, teacher and community member.*



MAUREEN E. SINSEBOX RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT: 16 years

FAMILY: Spouse: Jeff; Children: Paige, 18, and Grace, 16

EDUCATION: Cardinal Mooney High School; Niagara University, B.A., Political Science

EMPLOYMENT: Administrative Assistant to the assistant principals at Brighton High School, Brighton Central School District

HONORS/ACTIVITIES: Member of NAEOP; member of NYSUT; booster club liaison for girls soccer; parent volunteer for varsity soccer and track teams; volunteer for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation; past board member, registrar, and team manager for Rush-Henrietta Falcons Travel Soccer Club; past Girl Scout leader and volunteer; PTA member.

STATEMENT: *I earned my degree in political science from Niagara University in 1989. My husband, Jeff, and I are long-term Henrietta residents. We have two daughters. The oldest graduated in 2016 and attends the University of Buffalo. Our younger daughter is a junior at Rush-Henrietta. I had an amazing opportunity to work at Leary Elementary School. That is where my love and dedication for working in this field evolved. After working as a paraprofessional at Leary, I moved to the health office at Winslow. Currently, I work in the Brighton High School as an administrative assistant. I have been an active parent volunteer in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, chaperoning activities, actively participating in the booster club, as well as many other activities. I am ready to give back and serve the community I have been fortunate to be a part of for so many years.*



DIANE E. MCBRIDE RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT: 59 years

FAMILY: Spouse: Jim; Children: Elizabeth, David, and Amy

EDUCATION: Rush-Henrietta Central School District, Regents Diploma; Monroe Community College, A.A.S.

EMPLOYMENT: Receptionist, Pieters Family Life Center/Heritage Christian Services, since 2007

HONORS/ACTIVITIES: Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education trustee, 2004 to present; past board president and vice president; New York State School Boards Association member, receiving Master of Boardsmanship Award, Board Mastery Award, Board Lifetime Achievement (2016); Monroe County School Boards Association member; served on many district committees, including Policy, Audit and Finance, Budget Advisory Council, Rush-Henrietta Music Parents Association, and Multicultural Parent Advisory Council; Pinnacle Lutheran

Church, music leader and choir member, and director of Christian Education from 1993-2007; Pinnacle Lutheran School, preschool teacher, 1993-2007; Monroe Community College, adjunct instructor, 1984-1992; musical involvement includes Opera Rochester, Rochester Opera Factory, Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus.

STATEMENT: *Rush-Henrietta has a long history of excellence. As a current board member, I have the opportunity to work with a dedicated team of individuals. I am able to give back to the R-H school community and help to ensure that this rich history continues. With the reconfiguration taking place, I feel it is important to use my knowledge and skills to ensure that a review and evaluation takes place throughout this next year. I am very passionate about ensuring that each child continues to have access to all that R-H has to offer. It is important to ensure that all teachers and staff continue to have the resources to support all of our students and that student success remains the focus. I would like the opportunity to continue working with the board, the superintendent, and for the community, ensuring continued educationally sound programs, while providing fiscal responsibility.*

Rush-Henrietta
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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

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2016-2017 Board of Education

Mr. Robert L. Cook, President
Mr. Sean P. McCormick, Vice President
Mr. Simeon I. Banister
Mr. Robert C. Bower
Mrs. Diane E. McBride
Mrs. Sue A. Smith
Mrs. Annmarie Strzyzynski

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. J. Kenneth Graham Jr.

Published by the Office of Community Relations

VOTE MAY 16

Voter Eligibility

- Personal identification will be required.
- Must present proof of street address.
- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old by May 16, 2017.
- 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 16, 2017, 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.*

**2017-2018 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 16, 2017
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
\$124,717,502**

**PROPOSITION NO. 2
BUS EXPENDITURES**

**PROPOSITION NO. 3
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

**Propositions 2 and 3 will NOT
affect the tax rate.**