



From The Board of Education...

MAY 2002

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

May 1, 2002

Dear Community Residents:

At the April 23, 2002 Board of Education meeting, board members voted unanimously to adopt the recommended 2002-2003 School District Budget as presented by Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr., Superintendent of Schools. In spite of the many fiscal challenges facing local taxpayers and the school district, your Board of Education feels that the proposed budget reflects an academically sound and fiscally responsible budget without jeopardizing current student programs and services.

Anticipating little or no growth in state aid and declining revenue from other sources, the recommended budget is \$80,986,943 for the 2002-2003 school year. After reducing proposed District expenditures by \$1.6M, the adopted budget reflects a 3.5% budget-to-budget increase and requires an estimated 7.9% true value tax rate increase. This budget-to-budget increase is among the lowest in Monroe County and the true value tax rate increase will be below the Monroe County average.

Rising costs, coupled with low revenue projections, make efforts to guide student success at current levels more difficult than ever. With no state aid increase expected, declining interest earnings and no foreseeable sales tax revenue increase expected for 2002-2003, a reduction of proposed expenditures was necessary. To ensure the prudent management of resources, District administration, along with this year's Budget Advisory Council [BAC], thoroughly reviewed all proposed base budget reductions and the impact that each would have on the District's ability to deal responsibly with the fiscal challenges of maintaining an academically sound program.

Many District stakeholders have played an important role in this year's budget development process. On Tuesday, May 21st, the annual school district budget will be presented for voter approval. The Board of Education believes that the proposed budget ensures that educational programs and services will be maintained at the current levels that this school community has worked so diligently to develop over the past few years. In addition to the three [3] propositions that residents will vote on on May 21st, they will also elect one candidate to the Board of Education for a three-year term.

On behalf of the Board of Education, the many efforts put forth to prepare and communicate the details of the 2002-2003 School District Budget are appreciated. If any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Board as listed below. Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in guiding the success of Rush-Henrietta students . . . one child at a time.

Sincerely,

David R. Pennella, President
[dpennella@rhnet.org or 334-0938]

- Sylvia Perez-Hardy, Vice President [sperezhardy@rhnet.org or 292-6018]
- Susan E. Banker [sbanker@rhnet.org or 334-3395]
- Arlene Burdett [aburdett@rhnet.org or 334-4360]
- Susan M. Derrick [sderrick@rhnet.org or 359-2526]
- A. Dirk Hightower [dhightower@rhnet.org or 533-1985]
- Matthew D. Spuck [mspuck@rhnet.org or 359-1143]

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Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

BUDGET FACTS

- Proposed Budget: \$80,986,943
- Maintains current programs and services
- Continues current school improvement initiatives

Budget Increase: 3.5%

This modest increase maintains all existing instructional programs and services, is among the lowest in Monroe County and includes:

- Smaller class sizes at all grade levels
- All programs and services for students with special needs
- All summer school programs
- All interscholastic sports and music programs
- All counseling and student health services

The 3.5% budget increase also provides sufficient funding to continue current school improvement projects including:

- Expansion of the District's kindergarten extended day program to all schools
- Modest computer upgrades at secondary [6-12] schools
- School safety initiatives [new mandated school attendance procedures]
- Student asset development initiative [character development]
- Professional development for teachers
- Parent involvement initiatives [Partnership Schools Program]
- Community partnership initiatives
- Teenage Employment Partnership
- Dual credit programs with area colleges
- Public information initiatives
- Website management
- Cable TV

Estimated Tax Rate Increase: 7.9%

The budget increase will require a higher than normal true value tax rate increase of 7.9%. Due to declining revenue projections, the estimated tax rate, which is below the Monroe County average, must consequently be funded via the local tax levy. Declining sources of revenue include:

- No state aid increase
- Low interest earnings
- Low and uncertain sales tax revenue
- Uncertain property assessments*

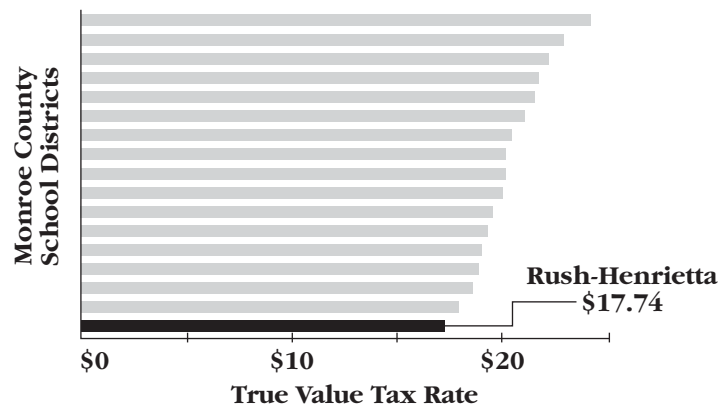
*Due to reassessments in the towns of Henrietta and Brighton, individual tax rate information cannot be calculated at this time.

Budget Reductions: \$1.6 Million

To meet the fiscal challenges facing the District, the proposed budget reflects \$1.6 million in base budget reductions.

R-H True Value Tax Rate Among Lowest in Monroe County

True value tax rates are a means of comparing taxes between towns. The true value tax rates in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District are consistently among the lowest in Monroe County. Rush-Henrietta ranks the lowest among the 17 suburban school districts in the 2001-2002 school year.





2002-2003 Rush-Henrietta Central School District Component Budget

Administrative Component 12.60% 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	2001-2002	2002-2003	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	99,624	109,594	9,970
Central Administration	240,161	252,711	12,550
Finance	524,867	531,552	6,685
Legal Services	65,693	78,508	12,815
Personnel	390,839	427,074	36,235
Public Information	293,142	318,588	25,446
Other Central Services	1,012,034	1,081,463	69,429
Other Special Items	1,040,399	1,022,032	(18,367)
Curriculum Development & Supervision	1,662,143	1,859,879	197,736
Supervision-Regular School	2,326,825	2,415,430	88,605
Supervision-Special School	196,368	235,763	39,395
Research, Evaluation & Planning	328,706	326,832	(1,874)
Employee Benefits	1,267,468	1,547,709	280,241
TOTALS	\$9,448,269	\$10,207,135	\$758,866

Program Component 76.63% of Budget

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the District's students. Programs are offered in 5 [five] elementary schools, two [2] middle schools, one [1] Ninth Grade Academy and one [1] high school [10-12]. Funds are also included in this component for transporting students.

Function or Account	2001-2002	2002-2003	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	47,161,565	46,957,572	(203,993)
In-Service Training	328,135	314,582	(13,553)
Other District Transportation	2,786,093	3,043,154	257,061
Garage Building	105,358	107,671	2,313
Contract Transportation	1,055,432	1,021,208	(34,224)
Community Services	40,600	6,400	(34,200)
Employee Benefits	8,513,964	10,396,428	1,882,464
Other Transfers	214,455	214,455	0
TOTALS	\$60,205,602	\$62,061,470	\$1,855,868

Capital Component 10.77% of Budget

The Capital Component pays for maintaining buildings, for the 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	2001-2002	2002-2003	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	3,746,603	3,746,459	(144)
Maintenance of Plant	1,726,717	1,759,059	32,342
Refund of Taxes	100,000	100,000	0
Employee Benefits	514,812	628,639	113,827
Transfer to Capital	1,145,224	1,190,931	45,707
Debt Service	1,339,275	1,293,250	(46,025)
TOTALS	\$8,572,631	\$8,718,338	\$145,707

GRAND TOTAL	\$78,226,502	\$80,986,943	\$2,760,441
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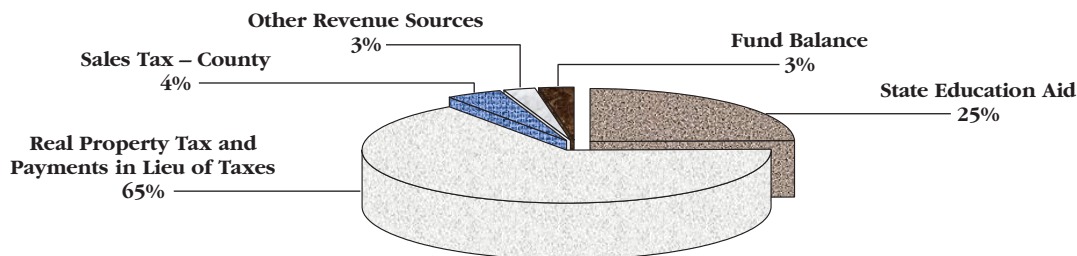


Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

2002-2003 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2001-2002	2002-2003	% Change
State Education Aid	\$20,855,346	\$20,042,487	-3.90%
Real Property Tax and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	49,095,996	52,969,296	7.89%
Sales Tax-County	3,610,000	3,610,000	0.00%
Other Revenue Sources	2,065,160	2,065,160	0.00%
Fund Balance	2,600,000	2,300,000	-11.54%
Total	\$78,226,502	\$80,986,943	3.53%

REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



2002-2003 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2002-2003 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

Instruction: 64.35% — The instructional program is the largest category in the budget and is the focal point of our educational system. All services which provide, or directly affect, instruction to students are budgeted in this area. The following are included in this category: regular school program, special education, summer school and continuing education support services [school libraries, health, psychological and social work services, curriculum coordination & supervision, curriculum development, research & evaluation], BOCES instructional programs, student activities [interscholastic sports, intramurals, co-curricular activities] and required tuition payments for Rush-Henrietta students attending approved private and public school programs.

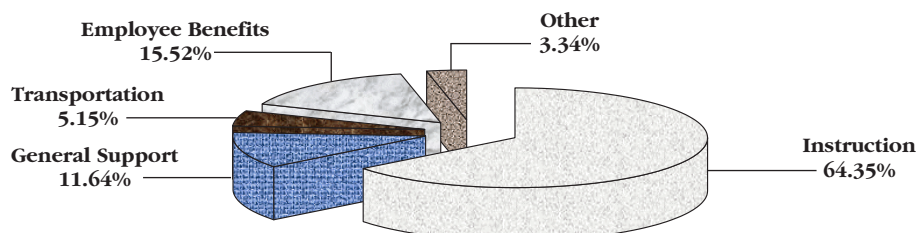
General Support: 11.64% — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all District grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, District meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

Transportation: 5.15% — 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: 15.52% — Included in the employee benefits category are social security, retirement, insurance and risk fund which includes unemployment insurance, disability and life insurance, and expenditures for undistributed travel and conferences.

Other: 3.34% — A small portion of the budget is for other expenditures, which include bus purchase reserve fund, community services, summer handicapped education, the teacher center staff development program, debt service and transfers to the capital fund.

EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET





Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

2002-2003 Proposed Expenditures

Instruction 64.35% of Budget

	01-02 Budget	02-03 Budget	% Change
Salaries	39,174,544	38,904,609	-0.69%
Equipment	345,460	361,469	4.63%
Supplies & Materials	941,101	1,032,158	9.68%
Textbooks & Software	402,960	420,956	4.47%
Contractual Expenses	994,842	1,084,101	8.97%
BOCES	8,588,880	8,792,810	2.37%
Tuition	1,555,955	1,513,955	-2.70%
TOTALS	\$52,003,742	\$52,110,058	0.20%

General Support 11.64% of Budget

	01-02 Budget	02-03 Budget	% Change
Salaries	3,669,344	3,756,611	2.38%
Equipment	216,250	223,650	3.42%
Supplies & Materials	455,371	480,549	5.53%
Contractual Expenses	3,413,627	3,418,931	0.16%
BOCES	1,485,487	1,547,299	4.16%
TOTALS	\$9,240,079	\$9,427,040	2.02%

Transportation 5.15% of Budget

	01-02 Budget	02-03 Budget	% Change
Salaries	2,234,890	2,438,162	9.10%
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	655,061	712,163	8.72%
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	1,056,932	1,021,708	-3.33%
TOTALS	\$3,946,883	\$4,172,033	5.70%

Employee Benefits 15.52% of Budget

	01-02 Budget	02-03 Budget	% Change
Social Security	3,502,711	3,422,983	-2.28%
Retirement	978,373	1,444,390	47.63%
Insurance	5,750,683	7,705,403	33.99%
Undistributed Travel/Conferences	64,477	0	-100.00%
TOTALS	\$10,296,244	\$12,572,776	22.11%

Other 3.34% of Budget

	01-02 Budget	02-03 Budget	% Change
Bus Purchase Reserve Fund	471,724	467,431	-0.91%
Community Service	40,600	6,400	-84.24%
Summer Handicapped Education	162,000	162,000	0.00%
Teacher Center	52,455	52,455	0.00%
Debt Service	1,339,275	1,293,250	-3.44%
Transfer to Capital	673,500	723,500	7.42%
TOTALS	\$2,739,554	\$2,705,036	-1.26%

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$78,226,502	\$80,986,943	3.53%
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On May 21, 2002 Voters Will Vote On . . .

Proposed Proposition #1

BUDGET PROPOSITION

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Shall 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 2002-2003 in the total amount of \$80,986,943 and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

Proposed Proposition #2

2002 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a reserve fund, in accordance with Education Law Section 3651, to be designated as the 2002 Capital Reserve Fund, such fund to be for the purpose of financing the renovation, reconstruction, rehabilitation or repair of the schools and other buildings of the District, as well as related systems, fixtures and equipment, over a probable term of ten 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 \$8,000,000, the source of which shall be amounts determined by the Board of Education to be transferred from the Unappropriated Fund Balance and/or the Capital Fund, any unexpended funds in the previously established Capital Reserve Fund, and any and all State Aid and any and all Federal and State Funds available by grant or otherwise for the purpose of renovation, reconstruction, rehabilitation or repair of school facilities and to transfer or expend therefrom up to \$4,500,000 for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the school facilities and districtwide systems, including, without limitation, the Crane, Burger, Leary, Roth, Sherman, Sperry, Webster and Winslow schools and the

Transportation/Facilities Building, such projects to include, without limitation, sidewalk and bus loop replacement; carpet and flooring replacement; HVAC; ADA compliance; health, safety and security projects; interior door replacement; lighting replacement; science laboratories; climatic conditions projects; computer and media related cabling; emergency generators and UPS backup of data and telephone systems; media and network projects; building exterior upgrades and repairs; telephone and public address system replacements and renovations; classroom upgrades; ceiling replacement; bathroom renovations; electronic building security systems; gymnasium movable partitions and renovations; environmental, energy conservation and structural projects; asbestos abatement; Venetian blinds and code compliance?

This proposition will not increase the budget or the tax rate.

Proposed Proposition #3

2002 BUS RESERVE FUND

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a reserve fund in accordance with Education Law Section 3651, to be designated as the 2002 Bus Replacement Reserve Fund, such fund to be for the purpose of financing the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of District students, over a probable term of three 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 \$3,000,000, the source of which shall be amounts determined by the Board of Education to be transferred from the Unappropriated Fund Balance, any unexpended funds in the previously established School Bus Replacement Reserve Fund, and any and all State Aid and any and all Federal and State Funds available by grant or otherwise for the purpose of purchasing such vehicles, and to expend up to \$800,000 therefrom in the 2003-2004 fiscal year?

This proposition will not increase the budget or the tax rate.

One Candidate for Election to the Board of Education

One candidate is running for election to one position on the Board of Education. Board of Education members serve without pay for three-year terms. Voters may also write in names.



MATTHEW D. SPUCK • 39 Ivory Way • Henrietta, NY 14467 • Resident of Henrietta for 11 years

Education: Bachelor of Science in Accounting, pursuing Masters degree

Professional Background: Current Business Official for The Harley School, former consultant to large companies on best business practices and a financial and operations analyst for a publicly traded company.

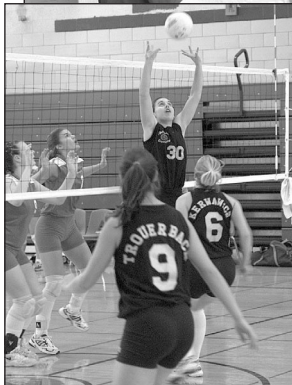
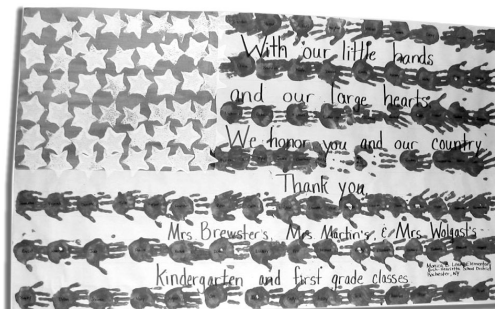
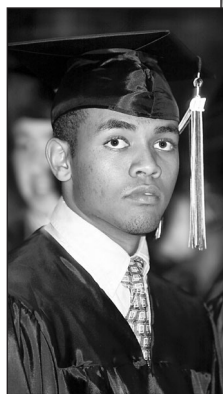
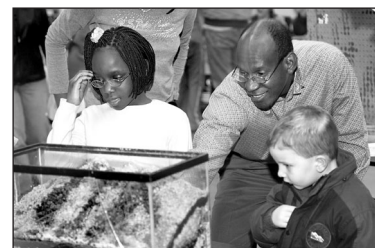
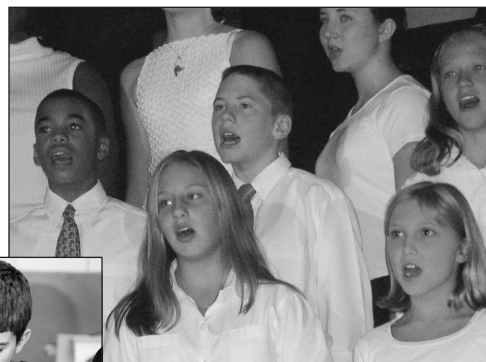
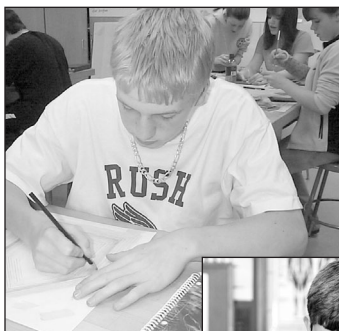
Relevant Experience: Rush-Henrietta Board of Education [1999-Current]; Chair, Finance Committee; Member, Policy Committee; Former Chair, Budget Advisory Committee; Board Member, Horizons Education Enrichment Program; Volunteer, FISH House Student Ministries; Director, Men's Ministries, Calvary Community Church

Family: Married 13 years, two school age children

Statement: *It has been, and continues to be, a pleasure to serve as a member of the Board of Education. In the past three years, I have tried to focus on issues and policies related to reducing the cost per student while increasing student achievement. The state has made each of these issues more difficult by requiring new standards and decreasing and delaying state funding. These challenges require experience to overcome. My background on the Budget Committee, the Board itself and business experience, coupled with my dedication to all the young people of this community, qualifies me to continue my service to the students and families of Rush-Henrietta.*



Your Investment In Education Guides Student Success . . . One Child At A Time



Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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Board of Education

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Dr. A. Dirk Hightower
Mr. Matthew D. Spuck

Superintendent of Schools

J. Kenneth Graham, Jr., *Ph.D.*

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Karen A. Flanigan, *Information Specialist*

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

VOTE – Tuesday, May 21, 2002, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Voter Eligibility

- You must be registered with the Monroe County Board of Elections **or** the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.
- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old by May 21, 2002.
- 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.

Voting Locations

Eligible voters should vote in the elementary school that serves their neighborhood:

- Crane Elementary School, 85 Shell Edge Drive
- Fyle Elementary School, 133 Vollmer Parkway
- Leary Elementary School, 5509 East Henrietta Road
- Sherman Elementary School, 50 Authors Avenue
- Winslow Elementary School, 755 Pinnacle Road

Registration Day

Wednesday, May 15, 2002 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. is Rush-Henrietta School District Registration Day. Those wishing to register should go to the elementary school that serves their neighborhood. A person's registration continues in effect as long as that person lives at the same address. Anyone who is registered with the Monroe County Board of Elections does not have to register with the school district.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to qualified residents of the District who are unable to vote in person on May 21, 2002 for reasons specified by law. Voters must complete an *application* for an absentee ballot in order to receive a ballot. Applications are available by phone or in person at the District Clerk's Office, Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road. If you have a question, call Elizabeth Bevan, District Clerk, at 359-5010.



RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2002
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Voting will take place at
all elementary schools.**

Registered voters should refer to the one-page Budget Notice mailed in mid-May to determine the school at which to vote. Voters will elect one member to the Board of Education and vote on the following three propositions.

PROPOSITION #1
Budget Proposition

PROPOSITION #2
Capital Reserve Fund

This proposition will not increase the budget or the tax rate.

PROPOSITION #3
Bus Reserve Fund

This proposition will not increase the budget or the tax rate.