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# BUDGET NEWSLETTER

MAY 2004



## Guiding Student Success

*Challenging educational opportunities in Rush-Henrietta classrooms, and beyond, prepare students for success in a world of social, economic, environmental and technological change one school, one classroom . . . one child at a time.*



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May 3, 2004

# From the Board of Education

Dear Community Resident:

On May 18th, all registered voters in our school district will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2004-2005 school budget as adopted by the Board of Education. It reflects the district's commitment to the development of an educationally sound and fiscally responsible budget that will continue to advance education in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.

It is important to the Board of Education, as well as to the administration of the district, that the community has the opportunity to participate in the budget process. Throughout the process, we solicited feedback from stakeholders during community forums and public hearings. Members of the community were also invited to participate on the Budget Advisory Council, which began meeting in November. After substantial review of the district's budget, this committee made recommendations to the Superintendent regarding the 2004-2005 proposed budget.

In addition to community input, the Board of Education and the administration conducted a program and services review last fall, which enabled us to identify ways to improve the delivery of instruction. This extensive review helped us to develop a budget for voter approval that we believe is both educationally and fiscally sound. We thank all community residents that participated in the budget development process this year and also extend an invitation to all stakeholders to take advantage of these opportunities in the future.

Keeping all district programs and services at current levels in the coming year requires a budget of \$86.3 million, 3.6% more than the 2003-2004 budget. Factors driving this increase include inflation, rising fuel and utility costs, increased health insurance costs, higher state imposed retirement system costs, increased BOCES services costs and contractual obligations.

While this budget-to-budget increase is minimal, state aid will increase less than 1%. In addition, the district can expect little or no increase in interest earnings or sales tax revenue next year and property valuation is expected to increase only slightly, if at all.

Given these revenue projections, the Board of Education and the Superintendent developed a budget that does not negatively impact planned programs and services for students. A number of budget reductions and reallocations were made resulting in a projected true value tax rate increase that will not exceed 3.53% [the actual tax rate is established after the passage of the state budget and finalization of town assessments]. This projected tax rate increase will be among the lowest in Monroe County.

The proposed budget continues current initiatives and supports school improvement priorities [as outlined on page 3 of this newsletter under *Budget Facts*] and focuses on improving the delivery of our children's education and their academic achievement. Should you have any questions as you read through the material in this newsletter, please feel free to contact any trustee of the board as listed below. All registered voters are urged to vote on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the elementary school which serves your neighborhood as listed under *Voting Locations* on the back cover of this newsletter.

As always, the Board of Education is most appreciative for the strong support that the community continues to demonstrate for the delivery of quality programs and services that enable the district to guide student success . . . one child at a time.

Sincerely,

The Board of Education

David R. Pennella, President	[Dpennella@rhnet.org or 334-0938]
Edward A. Lincoln, Vice President	[Elincoln@rhnet.org or 334-4784]
Susan E. Banker	[Sbanker@rhnet.org or 334-3395]
Pamela J. Reinhardt	[Preinhardt@rhnet.org or 334-2357]
Sue A. Smith	[Sasmith@rhnet.org or 334-6563]
William B. Stroud	[Wstroud@rhnet.org or 383-8916]



# 2004-2005 Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

## 2004-2005 Budget Facts

**Proposed Budget: \$86,282,936**  
**Budget-to-Budget Increase: 3.61%**

**Projected Tax Rate Increase:**  
**No More Than 3.53%\***

Rush-Henrietta's proposed budget-to-budget increase of 3.61% continues to be among the lowest in Monroe County. It provides funding for:

- Curriculum and staff development at current levels
- Smaller class sizes at elementary schools [K-2]
- Maintaining past class size reductions at other grade levels
- Improved student and teacher access to computer technology
- Improved student access to academic support services
- School Resource Officer

With a 3.53% tax rate increase, the Rush-Henrietta projected true value tax rate will continue to be the lowest of 17 suburban Monroe County school districts.

The projected increase on a house assessed at \$100,000 would be:

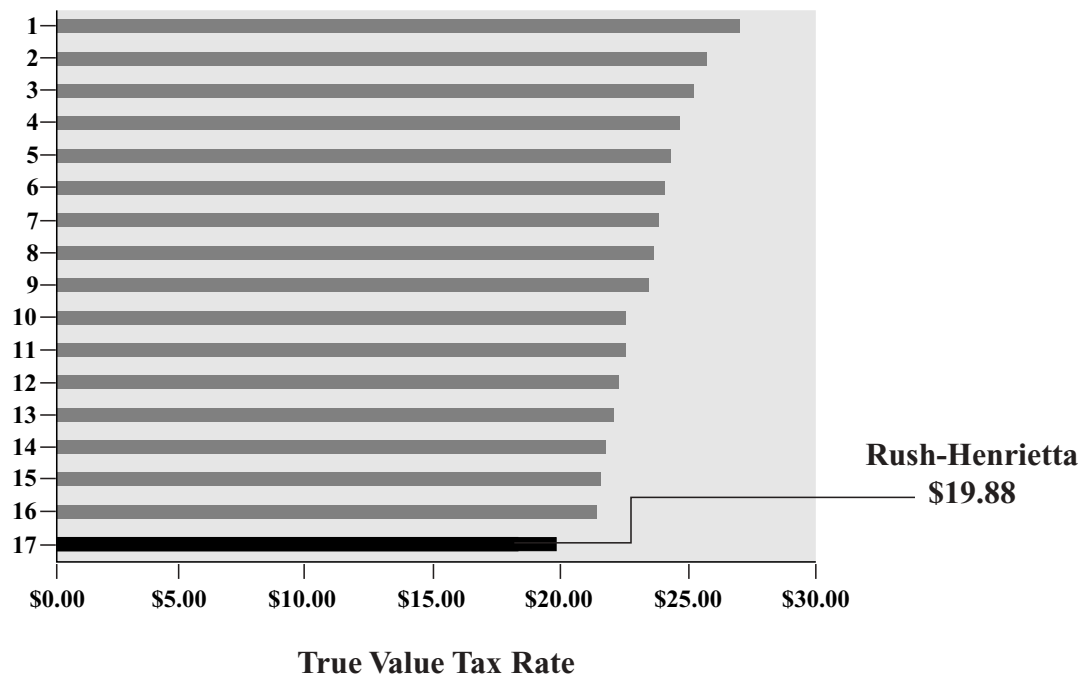
- No more than \$5.85 per month without a STAR exemption
- No more than \$4.09 per month with a basic STAR exemption
- No more than \$2.92 per month with an enhanced STAR exemption

**\*It is expected that this projected tax rate increase will be lower upon approval of the state budget and the finalization of town assessments.**

## R-H True Value Tax Rate LOWEST in Monroe County

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 and were, in 2003-2004, the lowest of 17 suburban school districts in the county.

Monroe County School District Comparisons\*



\*Data from 2004 Facts & Figures published by the Monroe County School Boards Association



## 2004-2005 Rush-Henrietta Central School District Component Budget

### *Administrative Component: 11.9% 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. The cost for administration and supervision of each of the district's schools is also included in this component.

Function or Account	2003-2004	2004-2005	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	105,830	117,709	11,879
Central Administration	259,423	278,518	19,095
Finance	473,588	505,845	32,257
Legal Services	62,968	71,000	8,032
Personnel	398,182	425,151	26,969
Public Information	331,286	363,165	31,879
Other Central Services	779,254	1,095,342	316,088
Other Special Items	999,991	1,043,105	43,114
Curriculum Development & Supervision	1,736,041	1,829,120	93,079
Supervision-Regular School	2,242,971	2,283,350	40,379
Supervision-Special School	216,452	256,003	39,551
Research, Evaluation & Planning	233,809	257,669	23,860
Employee Benefits	1,656,408	1,771,785	115,377
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,496,203</b>	<b>\$10,297,762</b>	<b>\$801,559</b>

### *Program Component: 76.6% of Budget*

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of, and educational support services for, the district's students. Programs are offered in six [6] elementary buildings, 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	2003-2004	2004-2005	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	47,513,672	49,214,133	1,700,461
In-Service Training	351,064	353,339	2,275
Other District Transportation	3,312,671	3,411,941	99,270
Garage Building	170,429	194,874	24,445
Contract Transportation	947,070	950,531	3,461
Community Services	5,500	500	(5,000)
Employee Benefits	11,350,377	11,727,191	376,814
Other Transfers	452,455	214,455	(238,000)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$64,103,238</b>	<b>\$66,066,964</b>	<b>\$1,963,726</b>

### *Capital Component: 11.5% of Budget*

The Capital Component pays for maintaining buildings, the upkeep of property, 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	2003-2004	2004-2005	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	3,751,110	3,897,220	146,110
Maintenance of Plant	1,792,662	1,838,474	45,812
Refund of Taxes	100,000	100,000	0
Other Special Items	70,000	19,734	(50,266)
Employee Benefits	727,940	778,101	50,161
Transfer to Capital Fund	1,190,931	1,190,931	0
Debt Service	2,045,713	2,093,750	48,037
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,678,356</b>	<b>\$9,918,210</b>	<b>\$239,854</b>

<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$83,277,797</b>	<b>\$86,282,936</b>	<b>\$3,005,139</b>
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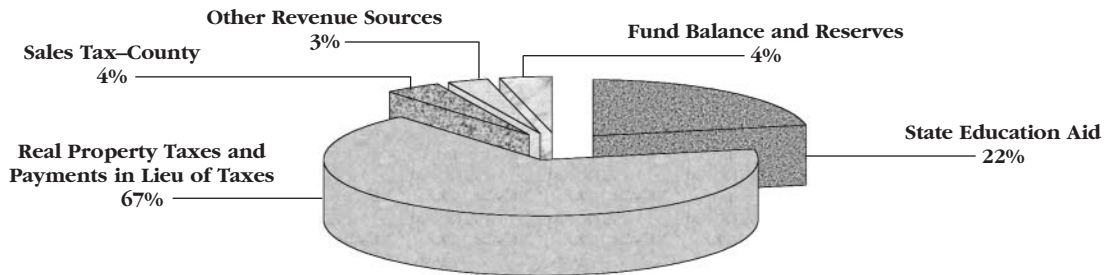
# Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

## 2004-2005 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2003-2004	2004-2005	% Change
State Education Aid	\$17,484,102	\$19,397,028	10.94%*
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	57,412,235	57,575,316	3.53%
Sales Tax-County	3,610,000	3,610,000	0.00%
Other Revenue Sources	2,065,160	2,065,160	0.00%
Fund Balance and Reserves	2,706,300	3,635,432	-19.33%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$83,277,797</b>	<b>\$86,282,936</b>	<b>3.61%</b>

\*The 10.94% change in state aid reflects the actual amount of state aid being received in 2003-2004 that was restored [approximately \$2M] by the state Legislature. The Rush-Henreitta Central School District will be recognizing that aid for the first time in 2004-2005.

### REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



## 2004-2005 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2004-2005 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

**Instruction: 62.81%** — 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.

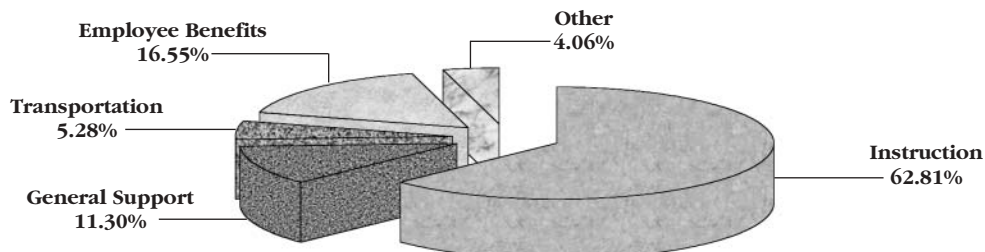
**General Support: 11.30%** — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

**Transportation: 5.28%** — 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: 16.55%** — Included in the employee benefits category are social security, retirement, insurance and the risk fund which includes unemployment insurance, disability and life insurance.

**Other: 4.06%** — 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

## 2004-2005 Proposed Expenditures

### *Instruction: 62.81% of Budget*

	2003-2004	2004-2005	% Change
Salaries	38,610,908	39,677,464	2.76%
Equipment	366,155	351,189	-4.09%
Supplies & Materials	1,002,295	1,029,273	2.69%
Textbooks & Software	486,725	495,751	1.85%
Contractual Expenses	1,011,302	1,129,359	11.67%
BOCES	9,306,288	9,946,978	6.88%
Tuition	1,510,336	1,563,600	3.53%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$52,294,009</b>	<b>\$54,193,614</b>	<b>3.63%</b>

### *General Support: 11.30% of Budget*

	2003-2004	2004-2005	% Change
Salaries	3,663,867	3,808,049	3.94%
Equipment	223,650	229,150	2.46%
Supplies & Materials	486,074	528,173	8.66%
Contractual Expenses	3,355,710	3,460,262	3.12%
BOCES	1,394,993	1,729,629	23.99%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,124,294</b>	<b>\$9,755,263</b>	<b>6.92%</b>

### *Transportation: 5.28% of Budget*

	2003-2004	2004-2005	% Change
Salaries	2,669,315	2,736,252	2.51%
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	813,785	870,563	6.98%
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	947,070	950,531	0.37%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,430,170</b>	<b>\$4,557,346</b>	<b>2.87%</b>

### *Employee Benefits: 16.55% of Budget*

	2003-2004	2004-2005	% Change
Social Security	3,527,251	3,560,347	0.94%
Retirement	1,762,141	2,686,448	52.45%
Insurance	8,445,333	8,030,282	-4.91%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$13,734,725</b>	<b>\$14,277,077</b>	<b>3.95%</b>

### *Other: 4.06% of Budget*

	2003-2004	2004-2005	% Change
Bus Purchase Reserve Fund	467,431	467,431	0.00%
Community Service	5,500	500	-90.91%
Summer Handicapped Education	162,000	162,000	0.00%
Teacher Center	112,455	52,455	-53.35%
Universal Pre-Kindergarten	178,000	0	-100.00%
Debt Service	2,045,713	2,093,750	2.35%
Transfer to Capital Fund	723,500	723,500	0.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,694,599</b>	<b>\$3,499,636</b>	<b>-5.28%</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$83,277,797</b>	<b>\$86,282,936</b>	<b>3.61%</b>



## On May 18, 2004, Registered Voters Will Vote On...

### *Proposition #1*

#### **BUDGET PROPOSITION**

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the estimate of the amount of money required for school purposes during the fiscal year 2004-2005, as presented at the Public Hearing held on May 11, 2004, in the total amount of \$86,282,936, and to levy a tax therefore.

### *Proposition #2*

#### **BUS RESERVE EXPENDITURE**

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 \$800,000 from the 2002 Bus Reserve Fund for the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of district students in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

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

## Student Achievement Data

Each year the State Education Department compiles a "report card" on every public school and school district in New York State. Copies of 2002-2003 report cards for each school in the district are on file in the main office of each school building and in the Office of Research and Evaluation located in the Parker Administration Building. Parents or interested residents of the district are welcome to examine these documents. For an appointment to review specific school report cards, please contact the main office of the respective school. To view the district report card, please contact Dr. Kenneth Hilton in the Office of Research and Evaluation at 359-5018 or 359-5020. Both district and school report cards can also be accessed through the district web site at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) by clicking on 'Administration' and then selecting 'Research and Evaluation.'



## Eight Candidates for Election to the Board of Education

The school district is governed by a seven-member Board of Education elected by the registered 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.

This year, eight [8] candidates are running for election to the Board of Education. On May 18, 2004, eligible voters of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will elect three [3] candidates to the Board of Education. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will take the seat ending June 30, 2008 and the two candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall take the seats ending June 30, 2007.

*The following candidate information is provided as submitted by each candidate.*



THADDEUS I. MACK

**THADDEUS I. MACK [aka TAD]**

93 Park Acre Road, Pittsford, NY 14534 • Resident of the district for 17 years

**Family:** Single

**Education:** Rush-Henrietta High School, Degree Expected June 2004

**Employment:** Student

**Honors/Activities:** Henrietta Youth Hall of Fame, Citizen's Award, Tri-M member, Monroe County Center for Youth Board, Henrietta Youth Asset Team, R-H & Spectrum Singers, President of the Monroe County Fair Association's Youth Taking Action Committee

**Statement:** Last June, the number of students who failed the NYS Math and Physics Regents exams amazed everyone. I was the only representative present from the Rush-Henrietta School District to speak at the public hearing held by the New York State Senate Education Committee in Rochester. While speaking at this hearing brought closure to me, it also enlightened me to a much broader problem. This community needs a person who will stand up for them. Not on one issue, but for the daily battles that youth, parents, teachers and administrators go through each day. I have first hand knowledge of the positives and negatives of the school system, and feel I can be a great source of inspiration for the students, parents and faculty. I feel I am more than able to lend a greater understanding to all.



ALAN PURDY

**ALAN PURDY**

85 Delaney Drive, West Henrietta, NY 14586 • Resident of the district for 18 years

**Family:** Wife – Lorie; Children – Jayme Purdy [23], Courtney Purdy [14], Ashley Purdy [14]

**Education:** Minerva Deland Fairport HS, Diploma  
Rochester Business Institute, Enlisted in Service before course was completed.

**Employment:** Retired U.S. Postal Service

**Honors/Activities:** Honorable Discharge from Service, Vice-President with Rush-Henrietta Athletic Association, Member of Moose Club American Legion. I coach girls' softball, boys' baseball and football.

**Statement:** Having been a coach for eight years, being involved with children and their families, I feel that my interaction with these children has helped me to know more of their needs and wants, along with my own children growing up. I feel sports have helped them grow and I also know the need for a good, strong education to go with it. I would like to be a part of this process also. In my own mind I was only doing half a job by teaching children how to play in sports and to have sportsmanship. Education takes in a much bigger important realm and these kids need all the help they can get putting them on the right tract to make them grow into citizens that will take our place in the future. I am willing to help them all to try and achieve this.





# Eight Candidates for Election to the Board of Education



SCOTT M. ADAIR

**SCOTT M. ADAIR**

28 Pinon Drive, W. Henrietta, NY 14586 • District resident for 12 years

**Family:** Wife – Justine

**Education:** SUNY Geneseo, BS in Accounting; Monroe Community College, AAS in Accounting

**Employment:** KPMG LLP, Senior Manager

**Honors/Activities:** Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Advisory Council, Chairperson [2000-2003], Member [1998-2004]; Baden Street Settlement of Rochester, Board of Directors [1999-current]; Rochester Business Journal, Forty Under 40 Award [2003]; New York State Society of CPAs – Rochester Chapter, Director [2002-current]; Government Finance Officers Association, Special Review Committee Member [2000-current]; Association of School Business Officials, Special Review Committee Member [2000-current]; Certified Public Accountant, New York State [1999-current]; American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Member [1999-current]; New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, Member [1999-current]

**Statement:** Today, public education in New York State is facing significant challenges in both the areas of program requirements and financing. My experience with the district’s Budget Advisory Council, as both a member and chairperson, has allowed me the opportunity to learn and appreciate these challenges faced by public education in New York State and, more specifically, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District [the district]. As a member of your Board of Education, I would focus on preserving current programs while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the district we, as taxpayers, have grown accustomed to. As I think of the best approach to this, it would be one of collaboration within our community, the board and district management, which I feel that I could play a vital role.



DIANE MCBRIDE

**DIANE MCBRIDE**

95 Shady Creek Road, Rochester NY 14623 • Resident of the district for 46 years

**Family:** Husband – James; Children – Elizabeth [21], David [19], Amy [16]

**Education:** Monroe Community College, AAS Degree

**Employment:** Pinnacle Lutheran Church & School, Preschool Teacher & Director of Education [Children’s Ministries]

**Honors/Activities:** Adjunct Instructor, MCC [1/84-5/92]; R-H Universal Pre-K Committee [97/2001]; Friends of the R-H Singers Board of Directors [current]; Member of Genesee Valley Orchestra & Chorus; Past Member, Opera Rochester, Rochester Opera Factory, Henrietta Community Chorale, Henrietta Community Theater

**Statement:** The Rush-Henrietta School District has a history rich in academic excellence. As the state mandates new standards and tests, it is important that each student continues to develop the skills for life long learning and not study just for the tests. While this has been the history at Rush-Henrietta, I would like to have a part in assuring this tradition continues into the future.



JASON NORDHAUS

**JASON NORDHAUS**

228-4 Crittenden Way, Rochester, NY 14623 • Resident of the district for 5 years

**Family:** Single

**Education:** Graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Rochester with the following degrees: M.S. Physics, B.S. Physics and Astronomy, B.A. Mathematics

**Employment:** University of Rochester, Ph.D. candidate in Theoretical Astrophysics

**Honors/Activities:** U.S. Congressional Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, Department of Energy Horton Fellow, Department of Education GAANN Fellow

**Statement:** A recent product of the public school system in Massachusetts, now a Ph.D. candidate in Astrophysics at the U. of R., I believe that I offer a fresh perspective to the Rush-Henrietta School district. For the past five years, living in the Rochester area has convinced me of the many benefits to one day raising my own children in the town of Henrietta. Above all else, I care about the quality of education that my own family will one day experience. That is why I am running for school board. In addition to a solid educational background, I offer three years of teaching experience in math and science and four years of managerial experience. As a school board member, I plan to strengthen the science programs, bring awareness to the importance of the arts in education and practice fiscal responsibility. For more info: [www.JasonNordhaus.com](http://www.JasonNordhaus.com).



## Eight Candidates for Election to the Board of Education



EDWARD A. LINCOLN

**EDWARD A. LINCOLN**

102 Blackwell Lane, Henrietta, NY 14467 • Resident of the district for 25 years

**Family:** Children – Elizabeth Ashley Lincoln [18], Senior High School; Jessica Danielle Lincoln [14], Roth Middle School; Taylor Christine Lincoln [9], Winslow Elementary School

**Education:** Certificate of Advanced Study, Higher Education, University of Rochester; Masters of Science, Educational Administration, University of Rochester; Bachelor of Arts, History, Eisenhower College

**Employment:** Rochester Institute of Technology, Assistant to the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Career Services

**Honors/Activities:** Rush-Henrietta Board of Education, Nov. 2002 - present, current vice president

**Statement:** As the current vice president of the Board of Education, and as the parent of three school-aged daughters, I have a broad understanding of the many issues facing our school district. As a board member, I have learned much about the increasing challenges school districts face from federal and state legislations, funding formulas, education law and how the most recent educational research encourages us to change the way we approach educating our children. Our challenge as board members is to help the district navigate these complexities by determining a course of action that will improve student achievement while, at the same time, keeping tax rates at a fair and reasonable level. I believe that I have contributed to a positive momentum that is building in our schools and look forward to contributing in a meaningful way in the future.



WALLY SLYNKO

**WALLY SLYNKO**

391-B Clay Road, Rochester, NY 14623 • Resident of the district for 29 years

**Family:** Wife – Eva; Children – 2 adult children, both R-H alumni

**Education:** University of Rochester, Harpur College [State University at Binghamton]

**Employment:** Monroe County Dept. of Environmental Services, Industrial Waste Technician

**Honors/Activities:** CSEA Union Steward

**Statement:** I am running because I got tired of just accepting the official school district pronouncements about how the educational programs they were implementing were raising school achievement. When I researched the State Education Department School Report Cards, I found there to be not that much improvement in R-H academic performance. In fact, I found that for several years now the academic performances of R-H students have remained below the average academic performances for all suburban Monroe County school districts as a whole. I am not proud of the fact that my school district remains an academically below-average school district, despite the fact that it spends more per student than almost every other suburban Monroe County school district, and that its ratio of students to teachers has been the lowest among these same districts. I hope to shake up the district to bring about improvement in its academic performance.



MOHAMMAD NASAR

**MOHAMMAD NASAR**

125 Galway Drive, Henrietta, NY 14467 • Resident of the district for 16 years

**Family:** Wife, Children – Ednan [14] and Nazish [11]

**Education:** BSEE in Nuclear Physics and Electronics, London, England

**Employment:** Senior Software Engineer, Xerox Corporation

**Honors/Activities:** Have served as chairperson of Rush-Henrietta Special Education Parents Forum [SEPF]; I was an active member of District Parent Advisory Council [DPAC] and Budget Advisory Council [BAC].

**Statement:** During the past 10 years I have been involved in our schools in many ways, from being a classroom volunteer to the chairperson of the Special Education Parents Forum. I have discovered over the last 10 years [due to my involvement as a school volunteer, speaking to other parents and attending committee meetings within the district] that all residents of Rush and Henrietta believe in excellence in education through efficiency of cost. I do not think that taxes need to be raised. It's just that the money needs to be spent more wisely. The administration and school board need to be more responsive to the concerns of the community and its school parents. A method of accountability should be put in place for such things as new programs. They should be well researched and have an academically long-term life span.



## District Facts

- The district is governed by a seven member Board of Education elected by the registered voters of the district. This board establishes policies for the operation of the district and the superintendent of schools carries out these policies.
- The district operates under the umbrella of a multi-year strategic plan, which provides a framework designed to continuously improve the quality of education and academic achievement.
- All schools in the district are members of the National Partnership Schools Network.
- The district respects and values parent opinions and annually administers a districtwide Partnership Schools Survey to measure parent satisfaction.
- Annually, the district convenes summer and fall strategic planning forums with a broad-based group of community and school leaders to review the state of the district and district priorities for the current year and future school years.
- In 2003, the Board of Education approved a class size reduction plan. In 2003, kindergarten and first grade class sizes were reduced to 15. By the 2007-2008 school year, grades 2, 3 and 4 will also be reduced to 15.
- Technology rich, the district is committed to technology integration and the placement of computers in classrooms and K-12 computer labs to support the advancement of student learning.
- The district continues to employ strategies to boost student achievement in an effort to meet and outperform new federal guidelines set by the landmark No Child Left Behind [NCLB] Act. Initiatives, to date, include after-school academic interventions, readers' and writers' workshops and additional English Language Arts [ELA] time in lieu of a study hall or an elective.
- The district is widely recognized at state and national levels for its building, grounds and facility management.
- Rush-Henrietta stakeholders are committed to continuous improvement efforts that support the district's long-term capacity to maintain the efficient delivery of quality programs and services that support the advancement of education.

## Academic Excellence Highlights

- Senior High School ranks in top 300 of *Newsweek's* 2003 America's Best High Schools listing
- 74% of students graduated with regents diplomas in 2003
- 83% of graduates accepted into post-secondary education in 2003
- Technology-rich learning environment with K-12 computer labs and classroom computers
- Tuition-free college credit courses for students at Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester
- K-8 Enrichment Program
- Languages Other Than English [LOTE] Program
- Inclusive classrooms
- Senior High School block scheduling
- Continuing Education Program
- Stand-alone Ninth Grade Academy
- Academic competitions
- Small class size initiative implemented in 2003
- Standards-based classrooms
- School improvement plans
- Instructional Support Services program
- Summer academic program for K-12 students
- Kindergarten Extended Education Program [KEEP]
- Teenage Employment Partnership with area employers
- Distance Learning Center
- Advanced Placement Courses
- Extended Day Academic Intervention Programs
- Many league and sectional championship sports teams
- Award-winning music and drama programs
- Wide array of extracurricular clubs and activities

# Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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

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

## 2003-2004 Board of Education

Mr. David R. Pennella, President  
Mr. Edward A. Lincoln, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan E. Banker  
Mrs. Pamela J. Reinhardt  
Mrs. Sue A. Smith  
Dr. William B. Stroud

## Superintendent of Schools

Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr.

## Published by the Office of Community Relations

Ms. Nanette P. Hance, Executive Director  
Ms. Karen A. Flanigan, Information Specialist

ECRWSS

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**VOTE – Tuesday, May 18, 2004, 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 18, 2004.
- 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

### Voter Registration

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. To register between now and the vote on May 18, 2004, individuals must register with the Monroe County Board of Elections.

### Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to qualified residents of the district who are unable to vote in person on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 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, Parker 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 18, 2004  
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

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

Registered voters should refer to the Six-Day Budget Notice, which will be mailed on May 12th, to determine the school at which to vote. Voters will elect three [3] members to the Board of Education and vote on the following two [2] propositions.

**PROPOSITION #1**  
Budget Proposition  
**\$86,282,936**

**PROPOSITION #2**  
Bus Reserve Expenditure

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