



Budget Newsletter



Rush-Henrietta
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

May 2018

2018-2019 District Budget Proposal

Proposed Budget: \$127,043,033
Budget-to-Budget Change: 1.9%
Tax Rate Change: No More Than 1.92%

Developing a budget is a complex task. As we developed a proposed 2018-2019 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 state-mandated employer pension contributions. 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 1.9 percent. Under this proposal, the true value tax rate would increase by no more than 1.92 percent, and the total tax levy would be within the limits established under the state's 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 K-3 schools
- Completes the district's 1:1 technology initiative as outlined in our five-year plan
- Reallocates funds to replace building visitor management systems that enhance safety
- Reflects a reduction in the Payments in Lieu of Taxes agreement for The Marketplace mall
- Freezes discretionary spending

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 \$26 annually. A senior citizen with the enhanced STAR exemption who owns a house assessed at \$100,000 would see school taxes increase by \$13 annually.

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 2018-2019 will be less than 1 percent higher 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 15

The Senior High School has been named again as a Reward School for outstanding academic achievement by the New York State Education Department.



From the Board of Education

May 1, 2018

Dear Community Resident:

On Tuesday, May 15, eligible voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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; completes the district’s 1:1 technology initiative as outlined in our five-year plan; reallocates funds to replace building visitor management systems; reflects a reduction in the Payments in Lieu of Taxes agreement for The Marketplace mall; and freezes discretionary spending.

Maintaining all of our programs and services at current levels requires a budget of \$127 million, an increase of 1.9 percent compared to last year. Factors driving this increase include contractual obligations, increased health insurance costs, and state-mandated employer pension contributions.

Given our expense and revenue assumptions, we project a true value tax rate increase of 1.92 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 \$26 annually, while a senior citizen with property assessed at \$100,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$13 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.

In addition to propositions regarding the budget and bus expenditures, voters will be asked if the district should purchase the St. Marianne Cope Parish (Good Shepherd site) property, located at 3286-3318 East Henrietta Road. This 10-acre property includes the former Good Shepherd School. The site would be used for the continued operation of certain district-run community programs, such as Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Cub Care Zone, and could be developed to enhance the Senior High School campus. For more information regarding this opportunity, please see page 10 of this newsletter.

All eligible voters are urged to vote between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 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
Simeon I. Banister	sbanister@rhnet.org	444-0762
Jennifer M. Laird	jlaird@rhnet.org	738-7198
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

2017 New York State Regents Results

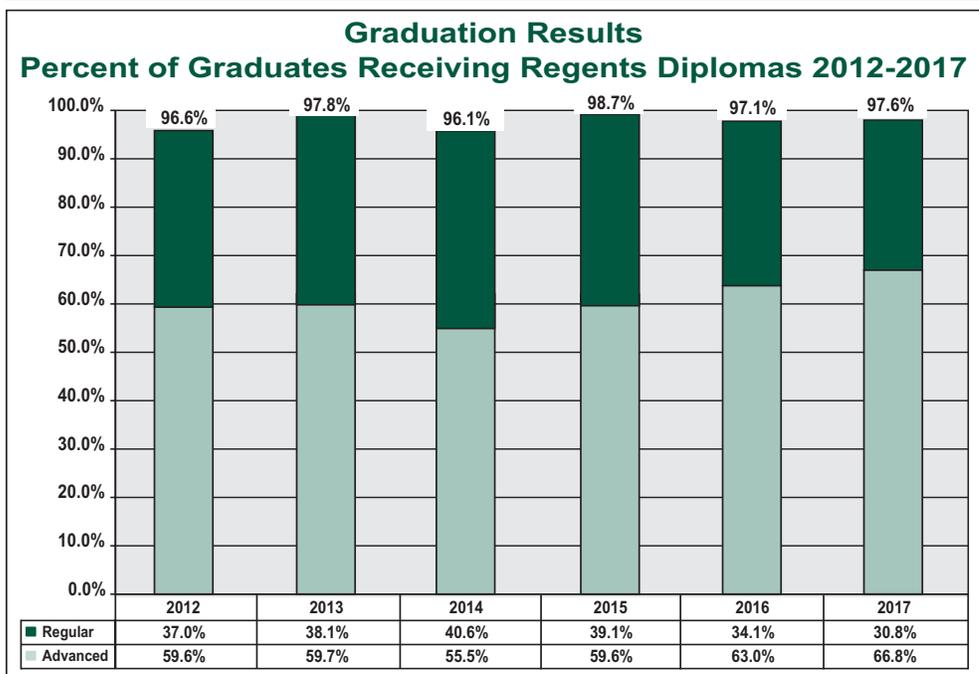
Regents Exam	# Tested	% Passing
ASL	47	100
CCLS English	437	92.7
French	43	95.3
German	53	96.2
Spanish	113	98.2
CCLS Algebra	459	90.2
CCLS Geometry	362	89.2
CCLS Algebra 2	235	96.2
Earth Science	451	86.9
Biology	428	87.4
Chemistry	319	85.9
Physics	148	90.5
Global History and Geography	429	85.5
U.S. History and Government	418	94.5

Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement courses are offered in many academic areas. In Rush-Henrietta, our Senior High School students wrote 792 AP exams and 614 (78 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.



* The percentage of Rush-Henrietta students earning a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation in 2017 was the highest on record.

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 2016-2017 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 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-19 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 124,717,502	\$ 127,043,033	\$ 124,393,190
Increase/(Decrease) for the 2017-18 School Year		\$ 2,325,531	\$ (324,312)
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		1.86%	-0.26%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 74,963,252	\$ 77,613,095	
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)	\$ 74,963,252	\$ 77,613,095	\$ 74,963,252
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ -	\$ -	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 74,963,252	\$ 77,613,095	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 74,963,252	\$ 77,613,095	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 14,153,992	\$ 14,035,047	\$ 13,610,748
Program Component	\$ 93,911,145	\$ 96,385,707	\$ 94,785,707
Capital Component	\$ 16,652,365	\$ 16,622,279	\$ 15,996,735

* 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.

Description	Amount
Bus purchases	\$ 2,400,000
Purchase of Real Property - Good Shepherd site, East Henrietta Road	\$ 1,397,200

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.	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year \$ 613

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-2019 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 15, 2018, 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.

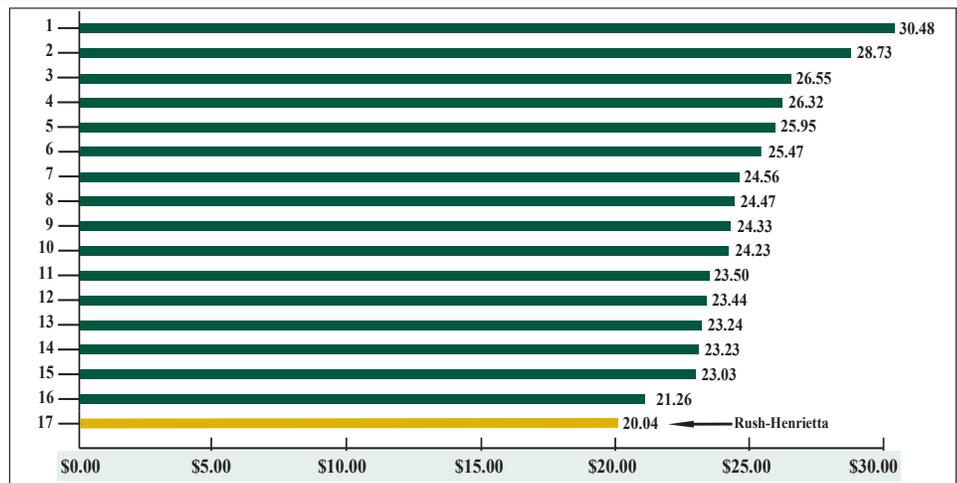
If you are a United States citizen, will be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2018, and have been a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote, you may vote. Proof of residency and personal identification is required.

R-H True Value Tax Rate: Still the LOWEST in Monroe County

Monroe County School District Comparison*

Tax rates are a means of comparing taxes between towns. The true value tax rate in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District is consistently among the **lowest** in Monroe County. Next year, Rush-Henrietta again would have the lowest tax rate.

* Data from "2018 Facts and Figures" published by the Monroe County School Boards Association



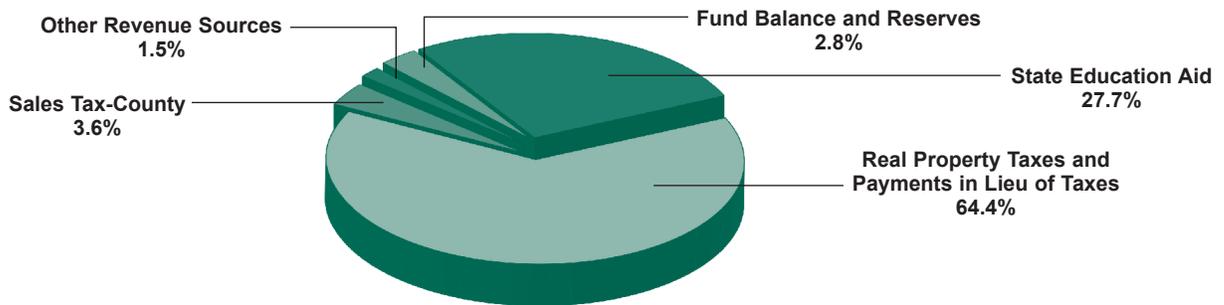


Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

2018-2019 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2017-2018	2018-2019	% Change
State Education Aid	\$35,287,401	\$35,243,749	-1
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	79,613,252	81,863,095	2.8
Sales Tax-County	4,500,000	4,545,000	1.0
Other Revenue Sources	2,466,849	1,891,189	-23.3
Fund Balance and Reserves	2,850,000	3,500,000	22.8
GRAND TOTALS	\$124,717,502	\$127,043,033	1.9

REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



2018-2019 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2018-2019 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

Instruction: 52.4% — The instructional program is the largest category in the budget and is the focal point of our educational system. All services that provide, or directly affect, instruction to students are budgeted in this area. The following are included in this category: regular school program, special education, summer school and support services [school libraries, health, psychological and social work services, curriculum coordination & supervision, curriculum development, research & evaluation], BOCES instructional programs, student activities [interscholastic sports, intramurals, co-curricular activities] and required tuition payments for Rush-Henrietta students attending approved private and public school programs.

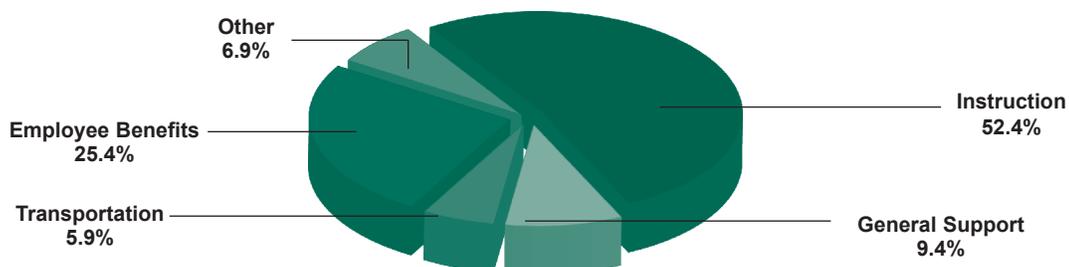
General Support: 9.4% — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

Transportation: 5.9% — Includes bus transportation for more than 6,000 students to district, parochial and private schools; BOCES centers for vocational & special education programs; field trips and athletic team trips.

Employee Benefits: 25.4% — 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

2018-2019 Component Budget

Administrative Component: 11.0% 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	2017-2018	2018-2019	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	123,569	126,318	2,749
Central Administration	346,768	348,852	2,084
Finance	1,167,726	690,075	(477,651)
Legal Services	76,400	78,055	1,655
Personnel	602,339	579,293	(23,046)
Public Information	201,807	200,401	(1,406)
Other Central Services	1,311,727	1,358,335	46,608
Other Special Items	1,364,703	1,301,159	(63,544)
Curriculum Development & Supervision	1,834,168	1,870,555	36,387
Supervision-Regular School	2,766,153	2,888,310	122,157
Supervision-Special School	289,488	294,072	4,584
Research, Evaluation & Planning	419,844	423,154	3,310
Employee Benefits	3,649,300	3,876,468	227,168
TOTALS	\$14,153,992	\$14,035,047	(\$118,945)

Program Component: 75.9% 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	2017-2018	2018-2019	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	60,285,757	60,739,899	454,142
In-Service Training	277,274	311,361	34,087
District Transportation	5,831,292	6,198,367	367,075
Garage Building	181,612	182,770	1,158
BOCES Transportation	1,150,156	1,134,452	(15,704)
Community Services	171,000	176,250	5,250
Employee Benefits	24,914,054	26,537,608	1,623,554
Other Transfers	1,100,000	1,105,000	5,000
TOTALS	\$93,911,145	\$96,385,707	\$2,474,562

Capital Component: 13.1% 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	2017-2018	2018-2019	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	4,816,180	4,622,713	(193,467)
Maintenance of Plant	2,495,410	2,245,976	(249,434)
Refund of Taxes	215,000	215,000	0
Other Special Items	145,303	181,094	35,791
Employee Benefits	1,618,572	1,865,962	247,390
Transfer to Capital	5,634,637	5,768,371	133,734
Debt Service	1,727,263	1,723,163	(4,100)
TOTALS	\$16,652,365	\$16,622,279	(\$30,086)

GRAND TOTAL	\$124,717,502	127,043,033	2,325,531
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School District Budget Proposal

2018-2019 Proposed Expenditures

Instruction: 52.4% of Budget

	2017-2018	2018-2019	% Change
Salaries	48,045,997	48,566,202	1.1%
Equipment	284,321	304,411	7.1%
Supplies & Materials	1,193,015	1,141,688	-4.3%
Textbooks & Software	595,200	459,531	-22.8%
Contractual Expenses	1,415,084	1,469,434	3.8%
BOCES	12,571,697	12,584,610	0.1%
Tuition	1,767,370	2,001,475	13.2%
Totals	65,872,684	66,527,351	1.0%

General Support: 9.4% of Budget

	2017-2018	2018-2019	% Change
Salaries	4,875,370	4,993,082	2.4%
Equipment	326,544	326,544	0.0%
Supplies & Materials	933,844	665,538	-28.7%
Contractual Expenses	4,511,406	3,717,110	-17.6%
BOCES	2,219,768	2,244,997	1.1%
Totals	12,866,932	11,947,271	-7.1%

Transportation: 5.9% of Budget

	2017-2018	2018-2019	% Change
Salaries	4,044,590	4,418,283	9.2%
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	1,928,314	1,877,854	-2.6%
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	1,190,156	1,219,452	2.5%
	7,163,060	7,515,589	4.9%

Employee Benefits: 25.4% of Budget

	2017-2018	2018-2019	% Change
Social Security	4,362,370	4,442,157	1.8%
Retirement	6,396,638	6,939,284	8.5%
Insurance	19,422,918	20,898,597	7.6%
Totals	30,181,926	32,280,038	7.0%

Other: 6.9% of Budget

	2017-2018	2018-2019	% Change
Bus Purchase & Capital Transfers	5,634,637	5,768,371	2.4%
Community Service	171,000	176,250	3.1%
Transfer to Special Education Extended School Year	400,000	387,500	-3.1%
Transfer to State Schools (Blind & Deaf)	450,000	437,500	-2.8%
Transfer to School Food Services	250,000	280,000	12.0%
Debt Service	1,727,263	1,723,163	-0.2%
Totals	8,632,900	8,772,784	1.6%

GENERAL FUND TOTALS	124,717,502	127,043,033	1.86%
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On May 15, 2018, 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 2018-2019 in the total amount of \$127,043,033 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 \$2,400,000 to be funded from the 2016 Bus Purchase Reserve, the balance in existing Capital Fund bus purchase funds, and the General Fund Transfer for the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of district students.

Proposition 3

PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of up to \$1,397,200, to be funded by a General Fund Transfer to Capital account, for the purchase of the St. Marianne Cope Parish (Good Shepherd site) property, located at 3286-3318 East Henrietta Road, consisting of approximately 10.6 acres, including the former Good Shepherd School, to be used for

the continued operation of certain district-run community programs such as Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Cub Care Zone and potentially to be developed to enhance the Senior High School facility, with a portion of the premises not required for school operations to be leased to the seller for a specified term.

Rush-Henrietta Proposes Purchase of Good Shepherd School Property

We would like to share with you additional information regarding Proposition 3, titled "Purchase of Real Property." This proposition asks for voter approval to purchase the Good Shepherd School property. Here is some background information about why this is on the ballot.

Rush-Henrietta leases the former Good Shepherd School, where it houses many of its self-funded community programs, such as Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Cub Care. It has leased this school in the past, too.

The Good Shepherd property is located on East Henrietta Road, just south of Lehigh Station Road, and adjacent to the Senior High School campus. The site includes the former Good Shepherd School, as well as other facilities. The church has expressed a desire to sell all parcels on the 10-acre property. The district is interested in acquiring this potentially strategic land asset.

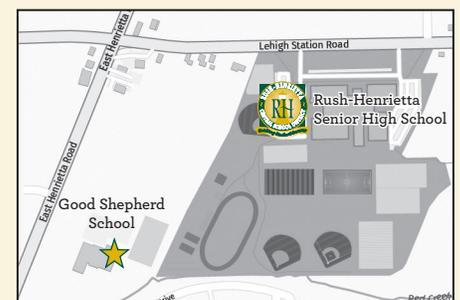
Although there are no definitive short-term plans for any change in the use of this property, the purchase provides many opportunities for the district, including:

- Additional parking for the district's Elmer Gordon Stadium and athletic fields.
The potential for a rear entrance and exit for the west high school parking lot.
Possible addition of another athletic field, such as for varsity baseball.
Potential site for an elementary school if ever needed in the future.

For the short term (until June 2022), district programs would continue to use the Good Shepherd School and the church would continue to use the other facilities. Here is what makes this opportunity especially attractive: Monroe No. 1 BOCES is leasing a portion of the district's Webster Building, which is the former Ninth Grade Academy. The lease payments received from BOCES would be used to purchase the Good Shepherd property.

Annual BOCES lease payments of \$341,811 and the elimination of \$60,000 of yearly district lease payments for Good Shepherd School provide an annual funding stream of \$401,811. Given the purchase price of \$1,397,200, the Good Shepherd property would be repaid fully by the time the BOCES lease expires in August 2022. The district could pay for the property in less than four years, while gaining strategic advantages for decades to come.

Should you have questions regarding this ballot proposition, please contact Andy Whitmore, assistant superintendent for school operations and finance, at 359-5037 or awhitmore@rhnet.org or any member of the Board of Education.





Because You Asked...

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 15. 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. The recent state budget included more of these, including requirements to provide feminine hygiene products to all students in grades 6-12. There also is a new requirement to provide a full lunch to students even if they have no money to pay.

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 will the proposed budget affect homeowners?

A. The Board of Education's \$127 million budget proposal calls for a 1.92 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 \$26 annually. A senior citizen with property assessed at \$100,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$13 annually.

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 under the state tax cap, Rush-Henrietta residents will again be eligible to receive the property tax relief credit from New York. Amounts are determined by the state and are income dependent. Approximate amounts are as follows:

Income	% of Basic Star	Approximate Rebate
\$75,000 or less	60.0%	\$367
\$75,000 - \$150,000	42.5%	\$260
\$150,000 - \$200,000	25.0%	\$153
\$200,000 - \$275,000	7.5%	\$45

Seniors eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit will receive 26 percent of that credit, approximately \$339.

Candidates Vie for Three 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 15, 2018, eligible voters in Rush-Henrietta will elect three candidates to the Board of Education. The following information is provided by each candidate. A random drawing determined the ballot order of the candidates.



ROBERT L. COOK 4507 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467 • Resident of the district for 29 years

FAMILY: Spouse, Gail Cook; Children, Chad, 18, and Isabelle, 16

EDUCATION: Boston University School of Law, J.D.; Eisenhower College, B.A. *magna cum laude*; Rush-Henrietta, James E. Sperry High School, Regents Diploma

EMPLOYMENT: New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, District Tax Attorney

HONORS/ACTIVITIES: President, Rush-Henrietta Board of Education, 2016-2018; Member, Rush-Henrietta Board of Education, 2015-2018; Member, Monroe County School Boards Association Executive Committee, 2016-2018; Member, Monroe County School Boards Association Legislative Committee, 2015-2018; Member, Rush-Henrietta Policy Committee, Finance & Audit Committee, and Budget Advisory Council;

Recipient, 2017 New York State School Boards Association Board Mastery Award; Recipient, 2017 New York State School Boards Association Board Excellence Award; Board Liaison, Rush-Henrietta Senior High School, Alternative High School, Sherman Elementary School, and Crane Elementary School; Member, Rush-Henrietta Senior High School PTO, Roth Middle School PTO, and Leary Elementary School PTO; Staffing Assignment Team, Children's School of Rochester, 2010; Teaching & Learning Work Group, Children's School of Rochester, 2009-2010; Children's School of Rochester PTO, 2005-2010; Adjunct Instructor, SUNY Geneseo, 2002-2013; Eisenhower College Board of Trustees, 1979-1980; Frederick Douglass Museum and Cultural Center Board of Directors, 1995-1998; Social Justice Grants Panel, First Unitarian Church of Rochester; Greater Good Committee, First Unitarian Church of Rochester; Merit Badge Counselor, Seneca Waterways Council, B.S.A.; Henrietta Foundation, Inc.; Counselor, Eagle Flight, Seneca Waterways Council, B.S.A.; Scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop #134, Rush-Henrietta, 2013-2014; Otetiana Council, B.S.A., Executive Board, 1974-1975; Eagle Scout, B.S.A.

STATEMENT: *Meeting our children's needs requires the efforts of a school board that sets high standards and implements the best educational practices. As the current president, I am proud to say that we have such a board. This is borne out by the recognitions our district has received. The USA Today Network tapped Rush-Henrietta as the top school district in Monroe County. The state education department has conferred Reward School status. During my term, we have maintained our fiscal stability and low school tax rate; completed the schools reconfiguration; introduced full-day kindergarten; offered board meetings for viewing online; increased board/staff interaction; reduced the impact of high stakes testing; introduced restorative justice practices; committed to a more diverse staff; and hired a new superintendent. In order to keep our focus on continuous improvement for the benefit of our students, I am seeking re-election to the board and ask for your vote.*



JAMES O'BRIEN 12 Caitlin Trail, West Henrietta, NY 14586 • Resident of the district for 27 years

FAMILY: Spouse, Kelly; Children, Paul 7, and Declan, 4

EDUCATION: SUNY Geneseo, B.A.

EMPLOYMENT: University of Rochester, Senior Director of Advancement

HONORS/ACTIVITIES: RHAA assistant coach, T-Ball and Rookie Ball; alumni class communications chair, SUNY Geneseo Alumni Association; former board member, Brain Injury Association of North Carolina; former volunteer DJ, 90.5fm WBER, operated by Monroe County BOCES

STATEMENT: *I completed my entire K-12 education in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, graduating in 1996. After earning my degree from SUNY Geneseo, I spent a decade living in Boston and North Carolina working in higher education. That time spent out of state helped me realize how fortunate we are to have such good public schools in New York state in general, and Rush-Henrietta in particular. Five years ago, my wife Kelly and I made the decision to move home and raise our family in this wonderful district. Every day, we are grateful that we made that decision, especially as we regularly interact with the highly dedicated, professional, and passionate faculty and staff at Leary Elementary, where our oldest son is in second grade. To serve on the board would be an honor, and I would seek to preserve and enhance all that makes this district great.*



PHILIP CHANG 98 Brandywine Terrace, Rochester, NY 14623 • Resident of the district for 30 years

FAMILY: Parents, Khamchanh and Aryn, residents for 34 years; Sister, Sandra, 23, 2013 Rush-Henrietta graduate

EDUCATION: Monroe Community College - current student; Cornell University, Master's degree; UC San Diego, Bachelor's degree

EMPLOYMENT: Previously worked at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University doing cancer research

HONORS/ACTIVITIES: Author of a variety of publications in scientific journals

STATEMENT: *Philip Chang has a master's in Biomedical Engineering and a technical elective in business from Cornell University. He has over seven years of working in pharmaceutical research. He is an alumnus of Rush-Henrietta in the Class of 2006. He hopes to develop career exploration programs by partnering with local businesses, so that students get early exposure into the working world. Additionally, Philip would like to create a curriculum for organic chemistry to be taught in high schools so those interested in the medical field get an early start. By providing greater career and pre-college initiatives Philip hopes to give students the tools necessary to succeed in the future.*



PAMELA REINHARDT 208 Alverstone Way, West Henrietta NY 14586 • Resident of the district for 57 years
FAMILY: Spouse, Steven Sr.; Children, Steven Jr. and Christopher, both Rush-Henrietta graduates; Grandson, Carter, entering UPK in Rush-Henrietta in the fall
EDUCATION: Rush-Henrietta graduate, Class of 1977; Monroe Community College graduate, 1979
EMPLOYMENT: JC Jones & Associates, Controller
HONORS/ACTIVITIES: New York State School Boards Association Master of Boardsmanship Award; co-chair, Monroe County School Boards Association Legislative Committee; presenter at MCSBA and NYSSBA conferences; trainer for MCSBSA Fiscal Oversight Workshop

STATEMENT: *I was a member of the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education for over 12 years. I had the opportunity to be involved in pursuing solutions concerning New York state mandates on student achievement, school safety, accountability, and budget concerns. While I was not a board member for the past three years, I have been active in the district as a member of the Budget Advisory Council, the Space Committee, the Board of Education Audit Committee and a participant in the community forums for the selection of the new superintendent. I am asking the public to elect me to the Board of Education. I am excited to re-join a group of dedicated individuals who guide our district, and will be welcoming a new era in Rush-Henrietta with a new superintendent. I would be honored to continue to serve this community, to ensure that our children get the very best education we can give them.*



NICHOLE LAPLACA 138 Brandywine Terrace, Rochester, NY 14623 • Resident of the district for 9 years
FAMILY: Spouse, David; Children, Daniel, 7, and Meredith, 5
EDUCATION: SUNY Brockport, B.S., Business Administration
EMPLOYMENT: Gillespie Associates, Director of Finance
HONORS/ACTIVITIES: Fyle Parent Group chair; Shared Decision Making, 2015-2017; Space Committee member, 2016-2017; Fyle Staff Appreciation Week, event chairperson; member, District Parent Advisory Council, Superintendent Search Committee, and Fyle Principal Search Committee; Golisano Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Parent to Parent member

STATEMENT: *I am a nine-year resident of the community and I've had the opportunity to learn a great deal about Rush-Henrietta through many school district volunteer activities. When my children began at Fyle, I immediately joined the efforts to enhance our students' educational experiences. As I volunteer in the school district I have come to know many staff, students and families. It is their dedication to R-H that inspires me to seek election to the school board. If I have the honor of being elected, I will work diligently to ensure that each child continues to have access to all that R-H has to offer and that teachers and staff have the resources to support our students. We will need strong leadership to make sure R-H continues providing a quality education as the financial environment becomes more challenging. My finance background will add value to help keep R-H fiscally responsible.*



EBONIE BARR 186 Southend Square, West Henrietta, NY 14586 • Resident of the district for 2 years
FAMILY: Spouse, Warren; Children, Taylor, 15, Tyler, 15, LaMiyah, 7, and LeVaughn, 7
EDUCATION: Ben Franklin High School, GED; Monroe Community College, Associate's Degree, Human Services
EMPLOYMENT: Lunchroom monitor, Rush-Henrietta Central School District
HONORS/ACTIVITIES: Vice president of Neighborhood Block Club Committee; former president of Neighborhood Association; former PTO vice president of city school; Neighborhood Garage Sale co-chair; chair of BoxTop collection for Leary Elementary School; chair of Transportation Day for Leary Elementary School

STATEMENT: *The experience I bring is geared toward relationships with individuals and families. I believe there is room to strengthen the relationships with the families within the district. I believe in many things that the school district does and how they strive to make the children our priority. I would like to improve upon what Rush-Henrietta already does as a district and make changes only in areas where it deems necessary. I would like to ensure that the district continues to spend responsibly and always puts the children's needs first. I am a huge advocate for our children's social, emotional, and mental health needs and want to make sure we give them the support they need throughout their school years. I would also like to have the opportunity to be a part of the decision process for our children that fall under the special education umbrella.*



MAI ABDULLAH 83 Churchview Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534 • Resident of the district for 20 years
FAMILY: Spouse, Mohamed Mekkielamin; Children, Danya, 17, Zeena, 12, and Amin, 10
EDUCATION: Rochester Institute of Technology, Master's degree in Environmental Health and Safety Management; Oumdruan Ahlia University, Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies
EMPLOYMENT: New York State Unified Court System, Interpreter
HONORS/ACTIVITIES: Member, Rush-Henrietta Multicultural Parent Advisory Council and Diversity Steering Committee. Volunteer interpreter with several local organizations. Member, Parent Leadership Training Institute; will graduate from Institute in May 2018

STATEMENT: *I've been a resident of Henrietta for 20 years and I have three children currently attending Rush-Henrietta schools. I feel so lucky to be a part of a wonderful community as a Rush-Henrietta parent. The connection between students, parents, and faculty that the district provides is truly a blessing. I'm a strong believer in parents as equal partners in their kids' education. As our school grows more diverse, it becomes increasingly important that the school board mirrors that diversity. School boards with a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and abilities benefit from multiple perspectives. Thus, why I decided to run in order to advocate and give more exposure to the issues that many people and their children endure. Also having a disabled child has fueled my passion to promote awareness and provide aid for children of disabilities and their families.*

Rush-Henrietta Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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Henrietta, New York 14467
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www.rhnet.org

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2017-2018 Board of Education

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Mr. Sean P. McCormick, Vice President
Mr. Simeon I. Banister
Mrs. Jennifer M. Laird
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 15

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 15, 2018.
- 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 15, 2018, 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.*

2018-2019 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 15, 2018
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Vote at the Transportation
and Operations Center
1133 Lehigh Station Road

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

PROPOSITION NO. 1
BUDGET PROPOSITION
\$127,043,033

PROPOSITION NO. 2
BUS EXPENDITURES

PROPOSITION NO. 3
PURCHASE OF REAL
PROPERTY

Propositions 2 and 3 will NOT
affect the tax rate.