



Budget Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

May 2009

2009-2010 District Budget Proposal

Proposed Budget: \$100,405,638
Budget-to-Budget Change: +1.38%
Tax Rate Change: -1.78%

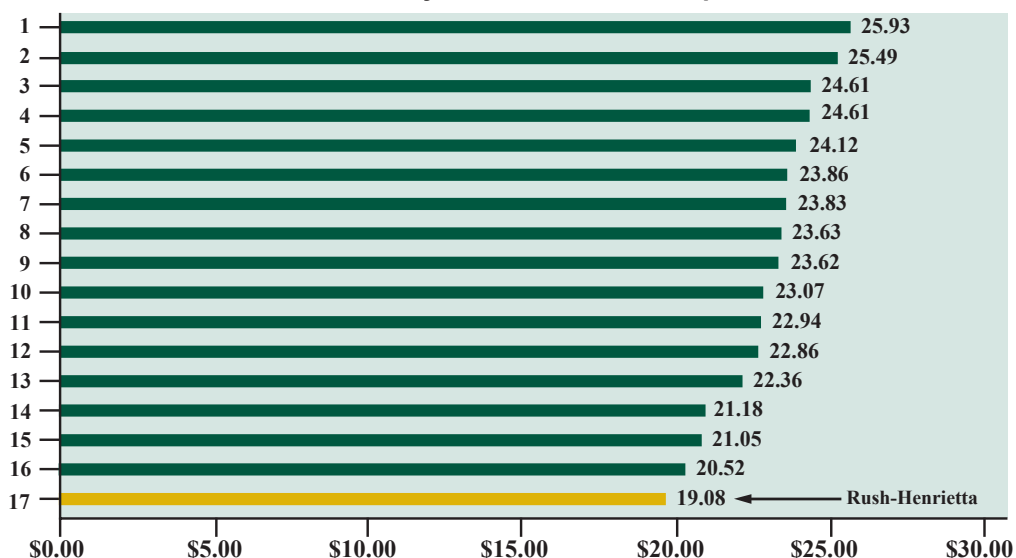
The Board of Education believes its proposed 2009-2010 budget is educationally sound and fiscally responsible, especially given the unique circumstances facing our community. During the budget-development process, the district addressed mounting fiscal pressures – including a rise in costs associated with heat and fuel, contractual obligations, health insurance, and inflation – and reduced operating costs by \$3.8 million. Despite these challenges, the Board of Education's proposal ensures the continuation of a strong academic program and funding for school and district operations that support the district's mission and vision of excellence.

Rush-Henrietta's proposed budget-to-budget increase of 1.38 percent is among the lowest in Monroe County. Our projected true-value tax rate decrease of 1.78 percent means our 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 and services for children, provides funding to improve the middle school technology and elementary math programs, and reduces operating expenses by \$3.8 million.

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

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.

Monroe County School District Comparison*



* Data from "2009 Facts and Figures" published by the Monroe County School Boards Association

VOTE MAY 19



Celebrating Stu

The New York State School Report Card shows that students in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District continue to perform well and achieve above the state average on required assessments. All Rush-Henrietta schools are in good standing with the state and federal governments. A complete copy of the state report card is available for viewing by calling the Office of School Accountability and Community Relations at 359-5018, and is online at www.rhnet.org/reportcards.

Grade 3-8 State Test Results

State assessments in English Language Arts (ELA), math, science, and social studies reflect New York's emphasis on higher standards. All general, special education, and English as a Second Language students take the assessments.



The ELA assessment tests students' knowledge and skills in the areas of listening, reading, and writing. The math assessment tests students' computation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills. The social studies and science assessments measure achievement in content, concepts, and skills identified in the learning standards and core curriculum.

Results are reported at four performance levels. Students scoring at Levels 3 and 4 have met or exceeded the state standards. Students scoring at Levels 1 and 2 are still working toward proficiency in the skills and understanding of that subject area.

ELA: % Meeting or Exceeding State Standards

Grade	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
3	78.6	77.8	81.9
4	75.4	76.5	81.6
5	76.8	79.0	85.9
6	66.7	77.5	75.5
7	66.7	67.9	82.1
8	53.4	66.1	67.4

Math: % Meeting or Exceeding State Standards

Grade	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
3	88.4	92.7	93.2
4	83.1	88.4	92.6
5	77.0	76.5	91.4
6	67.1	82.1	86.6
7	63.8	70.4	92.2
8	61.1	56.6	78.9

Science: % Meeting or Exceeding State Standards

Grade	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
4	92.3	94.5	96.3
8	88.1	88.9	88.9

Note: Students only take state assessments in science in grades 4 and 8.

Social Studies: % Meeting or Exceeding State Standards

Grade	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
5	89.5	94.9	95.3
8	77.8	78.2	83.6

Note: Students only take state assessments in social studies in grades 5 and 8.



Student Achievement

2008 New York State Regents Results

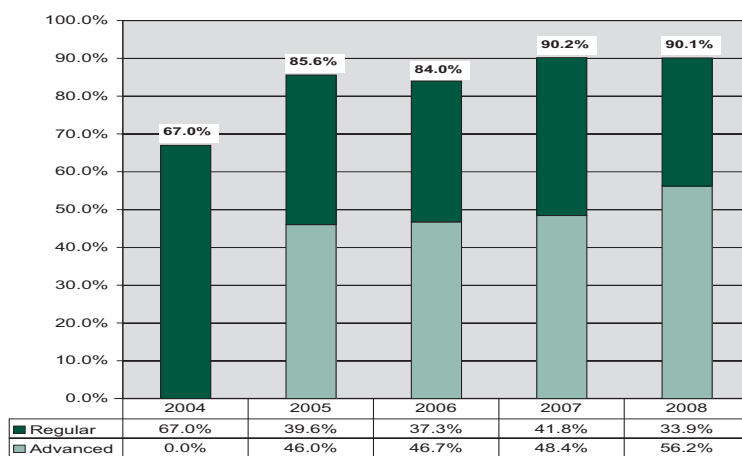
Regents Exam	# Tested	% Passing
ASL	42	100
English	473	91
French	72	99
German	21	95
Spanish	208	94
Integrated Algebra	547	84
Earth Science	604	75
Biology	563	95
Chemistry	471	81
Physics	147	76
Global History and Geography	588	81
U.S. History and Government	472	95

Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement courses are offered in many academic areas. In Rush-Henrietta, Senior High School students wrote 711 AP exams, and 515 (72 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 are generally accepted for college credit.



Graduation Results Percent of Graduates Receiving Regents Diplomas 2004-2008



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 2007-2008 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 School Accountability and Community Relations, 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 359-5018.



From the Board of Education

May 1, 2009

Dear Community Resident:

On Tuesday, May 19, eligible voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2009-2010 school budget adopted by the Board of Education. We believe the proposal reflects our commitment to put forth a budget that is both educationally sound and fiscally responsible, and continues our commitment to provide a high-quality education for all children in our school district. The proposal calls for the true value tax rate to decrease by 1.78 percent.

The budget development process begins each November when community members join teachers, staff members, and administrators as members of the Budget Advisory Council. The council meets numerous times to review all aspects of the budget – including any new proposals – and makes recommendations to the superintendent regarding the proposed budget. Given the many unique challenges facing our community at this time, the council's volunteer work this year was more important than ever.

Throughout the budget-development process, stakeholders had opportunities to provide feedback at community forums and public hearings. In addition to seeking community input, the Board of Education and district administration conducted a comprehensive program and service review to determine how the budget supports the district's priorities and programs. After a careful review, the Board of Education adopted the proposed budget for the community to consider. The proposal provides resources to support continuous improvement efforts that benefit both students and staff members.

The proposal ensures that all programs and services that our children receive this year will be available to them next year. By achieving cost efficiencies in other areas, we've also been able to add a modest amount of funding for middle school technology and elementary school math programs. Maintaining all of our programs and services at current levels requires a budget of \$100.4 million, an increase of 1.38 percent compared to last year. The factors driving this increase include rising fuel and utilities costs, contractual obligations, increased health insurance costs, state-imposed retirement system costs, and increased BOCES' services costs.

Given our expense and revenue assumptions, we project a true value tax rate decrease of 1.78 percent. (The actual tax rate is established after the state budget is approved and town assessments are finalized.) This true value tax rate decrease is possible in part because we've reduced operating costs by \$3.8 million. We expect that the true value tax rate will remain the lowest in Monroeville County, while continuing to fund our current initiatives and school improvement priorities. For the past five years, the final true value tax rate has been lower than the projected rate.

All eligible voters are urged to vote between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at the Transportation and Operations Center at the corner of Lehigh Station and Middle roads. 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 enable the district to guide student success . . . one child at a time.

Sincerely,
Edward A. Lincoln, President
Board of Education

Edward A. Lincoln, President	elincoln@rhnet.org	334-4784
Diane E. McBride, Vice President	dmcbride@rhnet.org	334-0272
Susan E. Banker	sbanker@rhnet.org	334-3395
Pamela J. Reinhardt	preinhardt@rhnet.org	334-2357
Sue A. Smith	sasmith@rhnet.org	334-6563
William B. Stroud	wstroud@rhnet.org	383-8916
Phyllis P. Wickerham	pwickerham@rhnet.org	334-2095



From left to right: Dr. William B. Stroud, Dr. Ken Graham (superintendent), Susan E. Banker, Phyllis P. Wickerham, Diane E. McBride, Pamela J. Reinhardt, Edward A. Lincoln, and Sue A. Smith.

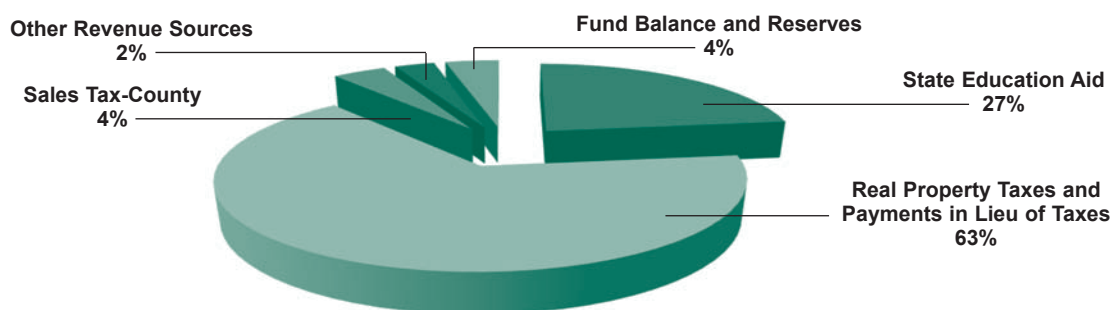


Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

2009-2010 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2008-2009	2009-2010	% Change
State Education Aid	\$26,190,348	\$27,408,899	4.65
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	63,732,394	63,740,643	0.01
Sales Tax-County	2,855,000	3,555,000	24.52
Other Revenue Sources	2,569,671	2,074,596	-19.27
Fund Balance and Reserves	3,690,000	3,626,500	-1.72
GRAND TOTALS	\$99,037,413	\$100,405,638	1.38

REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



2009-2010 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2009-2010 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

Instruction: 58.9% — 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.

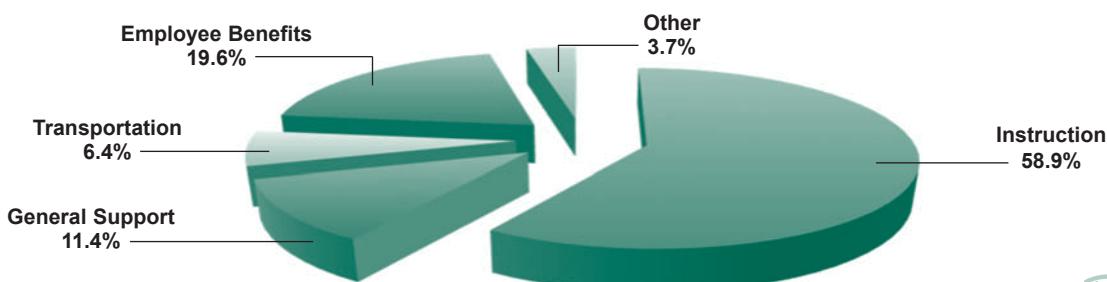
General Support: 11.4% — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

Transportation: 6.4% — 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: 19.6% — Included in the employee benefits category are social security, retirement, insurance and the risk fund which includes unemployment insurance, disability and life insurance.

Other: 3.7% — A small portion of the budget is for other expenditures which include bus purchase reserve fund, community services, summer handicapped education, school food services, debt service and transfers to the capital fund.

EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET





Rush-Henrietta Central Sch

2009-2010 Component Budget

Administrative Component: 11.79% 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	2008-2009	2009-2010	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	116,039	119,747	3,708
Central Administration	321,760	351,157	29,397
Finance	553,063	553,355	292
Legal Services	75,833	72,446	(3,387)
Personnel	428,207	459,882	31,675
Public Information	324,882	320,225	(4,657)
Other Central Services	1,083,371	1,095,325	11,954
Other Special Items	1,264,401	1,309,770	45,369
Curriculum Development & Supervision	2,038,307	1,974,475	(63,832)
Supervision-Regular School	2,446,637	2,597,320	150,683
Supervision-Special School	267,722	277,308	9,586
Research, Evaluation & Planning	377,888	363,707	(14,181)
Employee Benefits	2,469,010	2,351,537	(117,473)
TOTALS	\$11,767,120	\$11,846,254	\$79,134

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 six (6) elementary buildings, two (2) middle schools, one (1) 9th Grade Academy and one (1) high school. Funds are also included in this component for transporting students.

Function or Account	2008-2009	2009-2010	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	52,969,942	53,618,140	648,198
In-Service Training	282,221	310,339	28,118
Other District Transportation	4,497,958	5,046,651	548,693
Garage Building	263,445	228,983	(34,462)
BOCES Transportation	1,141,369	1,142,807	1,438
Community Services	1,850	1,850	0
Employee Benefits	16,469,818	16,177,563	(292,255)
Other Transfers	410,000	410,000	0
TOTALS	\$76,036,603	\$77,936,333	\$899,730

Capital Component: 11.58% of Budget

The Capital Component pays for maintaining buildings, for upkeep of property, and for electricity, gas heat, oil, water & sewer and telephone services. Funds are also included for "debt service" payments on capital projects (principal and interest payments) and for refund of taxes for claims against property assessments.

Function or Account	2008-2009	2009-2010	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	4,727,567	4,807,416	79,849
Maintenance of Plant	2,015,962	2,088,143	72,181
Refund of Taxes	100,000	100,000	0
Other Special Items	143,663	150,846	7,183
Employee Benefits	1,144,175	1,152,035	7,860
Transfer to Capital Fund	1,260,510	1,260,510	0
Debt Service	1,841,813	2,064,101	222,288
TOTALS	\$11,233,690	\$11,623,051	\$389,361

GRAND TOTALS	\$99,037,413	\$100,405,638	\$1,368,225
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School District Budget Proposal

2009-2010 Proposed Expenditures

Instruction: 58.9% of Budget

	2008-2009	2009-2010	% Change
Salaries	42,389,638	43,016,626	1.48
Equipment	353,792	417,540	18.02
Supplies & Materials	1,054,077	1,269,757	20.46
Textbooks & Software	562,427	512,132	-8.94
Contractual Expenses	1,396,600	1,391,826	-0.34
BOCES	10,815,664	10,873,856	0.54
Tuition	1,810,519	1,659,552	-8.34
TOTALS	\$58,382,717	\$59,141,289	1.30

General Support: 11.4% of Budget

	2008-2009	2009-2010	% Change
Salaries	4,103,587	4,278,307	4.26
Equipment	256,477	269,441	5.05
Supplies & Materials	613,785	656,974	7.04
Contractual Expenses	4,091,498	4,078,276	-0.32
BOCES	2,089,401	2,145,314	2.68
TOTALS	\$11,154,748	\$11,428,312	2.45

Transportation: 6.4% of Budget

	2008-2009	2009-2010	% Change
Salaries	3,166,561	3,346,013	5.67
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	1,594,842	1,929,621	20.99
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	1,141,369	1,142,807	0.13
TOTALS	\$5,902,772	\$6,418,441	8.74

Employee Benefits: 19.6% of Budget

	2008-2009	2009-2010	% Change
Social Security	3,784,475	3,788,196	0.10
Retirement	5,199,823	4,583,784	-11.85
Insurance	11,098,705	11,309,155	1.90
TOTALS	\$20,083,003	\$19,681,135	-2.00

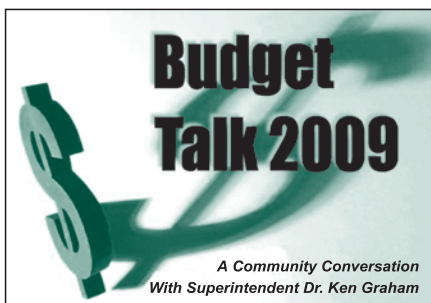
Other: 3.7% of Budget

	2008-2009	2009-2010	% Change
Bus Purchase Reserve Fund	557,010	507,010	-8.98
Community Service	1,850	1,850	0.00
Summer Handicapped Education	185,000	185,000	0.00
School Food Services	225,000	225,000	0.00
Debt Service	1,841,813	2,064,101	12.07
Transfer to Capital Fund	703,500	753,500	7.11
TOTALS	\$3,514,173	\$3,736,461	6.33

GENERAL FUND TOTALS	\$99,037,413	\$100,405,638	1.38
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Because



Since January, Superintendent Ken Graham has been engaging the community in an open and frank dialogue about financial issues impacting our community and Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Dr. Graham, your superintendent of schools, has been answering questions on the district Web site at www.rhnet.org/finances. If your topic hasn't been addressed, please share it by visiting the Web site and clicking the Contact Us button. Dr. Graham looks forward to hearing from community members and seeing you during the budget vote on Tuesday, May 19. Among the questions and answers posted online:

Q **How are school taxes determined?**

Your school taxes are determined by three factors - the school tax levy, property assessments, and equalization rates.

A 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. Usually, the school tax levy increase is greater than the increase in property assessments for the district as a whole. As a result, the district's true value tax rate increases.

Q **What is Rush-Henrietta doing to control costs this year?**

A The district has explored many cost-saving measures. To reduce heating costs, we have turned thermostats from 70 degrees to 68 degrees in all district buildings. In an effort to reduce electricity costs, staff members who have personal heaters or refrigerators in their workspaces must remove these items; alternatively, staff members can pay a fee to cover the cost of operating a refrigerator. In addition, the district is exploring other potential cost-saving steps, such as the installation of more efficient lighting systems, which might cost more in the short-term but would provide long-term benefit to the community. To read more about how Rush-Henrietta is going green and saving, please visit www.rhnet.org/green.

Q **How is the contingency budget determined? How can it be higher than a proposed budget?**

A The amount of a contingency budget is dictated by a calculation provided by the New York State Education Department. The state stipulates the maximum amount that a contingency budget can be, but in the event voters do not approve a proposed budget, the board is not obligated to adopt the highest dollar amount allowed by the contingent budget. Results from exit poll surveys show that some community residents believe the school district tries to encourage voters into approving a proposed budget by publicizing contingency information. Please understand that the school district is required to calculate the contingency budget information and share it with the public via the Six-Day Budget Notice, a postcard that is mailed to all district homes in the week preceding the vote.

Q **What are the major factors impacting the development of the proposed 2009-2010 budget?**

A Like all school districts, Rush-Henrietta is grappling with the new economic realities associated with a national recession that experts say started in December 2007. Despite our careful planning, much of the financial landscape remains unclear. The major factors under consideration for the development of the 2009-2010 budget are fuel prices, utility costs, state aid allocations or reductions, contractual obligations, BOCES' charges, retirement costs, and health costs.



You Asked...

Q What is happening with federal stimulus money?

A The federal stimulus monies will affect Rush-Henrietta's school district budget in two ways:

1. Some monies will provide stabilization funds to the school district in the form of state aid. Specifically, New York state is using federal stabilization monies to eliminate a state aid reduction that would have created a \$3.6 million shortfall for Rush-Henrietta. The stabilization monies allow the district to avert eliminating necessary positions.

2. Additional monies will provide stimulus funds through Title I and IDEA grants, both of which serve specific populations of students. These special funds must be used to expand programs and promote educational reform. Rush Henrietta expects to receive an additional \$200,000 for Title I funds, which are dedicated to improving academic achievement in schools with our highest poverty levels. We also expect to receive an additional \$700,000 in IDEA funds, which are dedicated to serving our special education students. The long-term challenge is that these monies are available for only two years and need to be expended in a thoughtful way that builds district capacity without creating an additional burden to the taxpayer at the end of the two-year stimulus period.

Q How has Monroe County's FAIR plan (sales-tax intercept plan) been resolved?

A Rush-Henrietta continues to deal with the ramifications of Monroe County's sales tax intercept program, which resulted in a 50 percent reduction in sales tax revenue to our district when instituted in October 2007. The intercept plan shifted the Medicaid burden from county government to school districts, altering a long-standing state law outlining the sharing of sales tax revenue. The district's revenue was reduced by about \$950,000 during the 2007-2008 school year. To protect the interests of our taxpayers in the event the plan was not overturned, the district budgeted for a loss of \$1.9 million in sales tax revenue for the 2008-2009 school year. After a legal challenge, Monroe County withdrew its plan in July 2008.

Q Has Rush-Henrietta received the sales tax money it is owed?

A No. A repayment agreement is in place, but the entire sum of money due the district won't be repaid for years. Monroe County owes the district about \$1.9 million in sales tax revenue. Funds withheld will be refunded during a five-year period beginning January 2010 and ending January 2014.

Q How is the sales tax issue impacting future budgets?

A When it became evident in August 2008 that the district could reasonably anticipate the restoration of future sales tax revenue beginning in January 2009, the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education restored \$945,000 (half of the original \$1.9 million that was withheld) to the revenue projection before tax rates were set, thereby reducing the amount of tax levy necessary to balance the budget. The 2009-2010 revenue statement will recognize the full restoration of sales tax due the district, but that number has been reduced in anticipation of the potential effects of the economic slowdown.

Q How will the proposed budget affect homeowners?

A The Board of Education's proposed \$100.4 million budget maintains all academic programs and services, while adding modest funding to boost middle school technology and elementary school math programs. The proposal calls for a budget-to-budget increase of 1.38 percent. In a worst-case scenario, the plan requires a true-value tax rate decrease of 1.78 percent. With a basic STAR exemption, for which all homeowners are eligible, a Henrietta resident owning a house assessed at \$100,000 would see school taxes decrease by \$23.96 next year. For seniors with the enhanced STAR exemption, school taxes would decrease next year by \$17.11.



On May 19, 2009, Eligible 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 amount of money required for school purposes during the fiscal year 2009-2010 in the total amount of \$100,405,638 and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

Proposition 2

2009 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Resolved, that the Board of Education be authorized to establish a reserve fund, in accordance with Education Law Section 3651, to be designated as the 2009 Capital Reserve Fund, such fund to be for the purpose of financing the construction, 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 \$10,000,000, the source of which shall be amounts determined by the Board of Education to be transferred from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance, any identified surplus funds in previously established Capital Reserve Funds, transfers from other reserve funds, and any and all State Aid and any and all Federal and State Funds available by grant or otherwise generated by projects for construction, renovation, reconstruction, rehabilitation or repair of school facilities and any private grants, contributions or donations.

Proposition 3

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Resolved, that the Board of Education be authorized to expend up to \$4,000,000 from the 2007 Capital Reserve Fund for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the school facilities and districtwide systems, including, without limitation, the Crane, Burger, Leary, Roth, Sherman, Sperry, Webster, Winslow, Fyle, and Vollmer schools, the Parker Administration Building, the West Henrietta Education Building and the Transportation/Facilities Building, such projects to include, without limitation, sidewalk, parking lot, and bus loop replacement; carpet and flooring replacement; GPS clock system installation; HVAC; ADA compliance; health, safety and security projects; interior door replacement; lighting replacement; science laboratories;

climatic conditions projects; computer and media related cabling; cooling, emergency generators and UPS backup of data and telephone systems; media and network projects; building exterior and interior upgrades and repairs; telephone and public address system replacements and renovations; classroom upgrades; ceiling replacement; window and skylight replacement; bathroom renovations; locker upgrades and repairs; water heaters; boiler replacements; roof replacement; electric panel replacement; oil tank replacement; auditorium refurbishment; office renovations; site improvement; soccer field improvements; press box construction; track resurfacing; scoreboard replacement; instructional equipment storage shed; electronic building security systems; gymnasium movable partitions and renovations; environmental, energy conservation and structural projects; asbestos abatement; Venetian blinds and code compliance.

Proposition 4

2009 BUS RESERVE FUND

Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Resolved, that the Board of Education be authorized to establish a reserve fund, in accordance with Education Law Section 3651, to be designated as the 2009 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 five 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 \$7,000,000, 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 2005 Bus Replacement Reserve Fund, transfers from other reserve funds 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.

Proposition 5

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 \$1,000,000 to be funded by the 2005 Bus Reserve Fund for the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of District students, in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Propositions 2, 3, 4 and 5 will not increase the budget or the tax rate.

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 May 19, 2009, eligible voters in Rush-Henrietta will elect three (3) candidates to the Board of Education. *The following information is provided by each candidate.*



MARC A. DUCLOS

MARC A. DUCLOS (first on ballot)

56 Church Hill Road, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467 • Resident for 30 years

Family: Spouse, Laurene H. Duclos, two children, Seth (10), Sara (5)

Education: Duquesne University, B.A., Political Science, 1992
Syracuse University College of Law, Juris Doctor, 1998

Employment: Law Offices of Marc A. Duclos (sole practitioner, Ontario County Drug Court Attorney, Town of Henrietta Zoning Board Attorney, Acting Town Prosecutor for the Town of Henrietta)

Honors/Activities: Cubmaster, Cub Scout Pack 134, Rush, NY; Dean's List several semesters at both Duquesne University and Syracuse University

Statement: The combination of my educational background, professional history and personal values qualifies me for the School Board. I have been a Town resident for 30 years; I was raised here, educated here and chose to raise my family here. Currently my eldest child attends Monica B. Leary Elementary School and my youngest will be following suit in the near future. I've served as Town Prosecutor since September 2000 and the Zoning Board Attorney since January 2005. In addition, I was a Court Clerk for over 5 years, a Code Enforcement Officer, acted as temporary Town Attorney and authored substantial portions of the Henrietta Town Code. My strong sense of civic responsibility and my desire to remain proactive in my children's upbringing are the primary reasons that I have decided to run for School Board. If elected I can be a productive asset to the School District and our community.



SUSAN E. BANKER

SUSAN E. BANKER (second on ballot)

1552 Middle Road, Rush, NY 14543 • Lifelong resident

Family: Spouse, Alan W. Banker '74 and three children, Joseph Michael Banker '97 (30), Philip Alan Banker '00 (28), and Alan W. Banker Jr. '03 (24)

Education: Local Diploma, Rush-Henrietta Class of 1974; Monroe Community College, Associate's Degree, Recreation Supervisor;

Currently pursuing master's degree in therapeutic recreation

Employment: Program Coordinator, Heritage Christian Services

Honors/Activities: Past member, Leary, Roth & RSHS PTA; DPAC representative; Chair and Vice Chairperson of DPAC; BOE representative for the District Shared Decision Making Committee; National Youth Sports Coaches Association (clinician); Committee member for BSA Troop 334 Rush; BSA Merit Badge Counselor (Otetiana Council); Member Ely Fagan Ladies Auxiliary; Member of the board since July 1997; Vice President of the BOE from 1998-2001 and again 2003-2008; received Master of Boardmanship Award for NY State School Boards (2005) for successfully completing all requirements for NY State School Board Institute (2003) as well as numerous other leadership development opportunities; current member of Monroe County School Boards Association; past co-chairperson to Legislative Committee, Labor Relations Committee and Steering Committee to MCSBA; current RH liaison to the Vollmer Bldg. and the Transportation Center. I have served on various other school district committees as the representative of the board: DPAC, Finance Committee, Policy Committee.

Statement: It is my hope that you would put your trust in someone who has the knowledge, experience, and the voice to ensure that your child is receiving the best possible education. From fiscal responsibility to instructional involvement, I have been an active part of the Rush Henrietta Board of Education for the past twelve years. I have a long term investment in the RH community, as a graduate (class of 1974), parent, community resident and current Board Member.



SUE A. SMITH

SUE A. SMITH (third on ballot)

400 Farrell Road Ext., West Henrietta, N.Y. 14586 • Resident for 31 years

Family: Spouse, Gregory, and two children, Leisha (29) and Ben (27), both R-H alumni

Education: B.A., SUNY Binghamton

Employment: Administrative Assistant, Academic Services, Monroe Community College

Honors/Activities: R-H Board of Education trustee, 2003-present; R-H Budget Advisory Committee member, 1995-present; R-H District Parent Advisory Council representative, 1991-99; Chairperson, 1994-96; R-H Space Committee member, 1997-99; R-H Raising the Bar Committee member, 1994-97; R-H Redistricting Committee member, 1992-93; Fyle Elementary, Burger Middle & R-H Senior High Schools, parent volunteer, 1985-99; R-H Office of Instruction, Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, 1997-1/2003; Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation, Grant Making Committee member, 2001-2003; Cystic Fibrosis Family Connection, Vice President, 1990-present; Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Rochester Chapter, board member, 1985-93; Boy Scout Troop 7, parent volunteer, 1992-99

Statement: Ensuring that students in Rush-Henrietta have every opportunity to succeed continues to be a key priority for me. We have made good progress in recent years in improving the academic success of our students. We need to continue that growth, particularly in the critical areas of reading/writing, math and science, so that *all* of our students are prepared to succeed in the global marketplace. The challenge now is to advance that progress in the face of the economic uncertainties that lie ahead. I believe that my six years on the Board and my many years of volunteer service to the district have provided me with a sound understanding of our community's values related to academic programming and fiscal restraint. I am seeking reelection to the Board so that I can support those values in the work of the district during the challenging times ahead.



PAMELA
REINHARDT

PAMELA REINHARDT (fourth on ballot)

208 Alverstone Way, West Henrietta, N.Y. 14586 • Resident for 48 years

Family: Spouse, Steven Reinhardt Sr., and two children, Steven Jr. (23) and Christopher (20), both R-H alumni

Education: Monroe Community College, A.A.S. Business Adm.; Rush Henrietta High School, Regents Diploma

Employment: Premium Mortgage Corp., Controller

Honors/Activities: RH Space Committee, RH Board of Education Audit Committee, MCSBA Legislative co-chair, MCSBA Budget Committee

Statement: I have been privileged to be a member of the Rush Henrietta Board of Education for over 6 years. I have had the opportunity to be involved in actively pursuing solutions to some of our most pressing concerns, such as state and federal mandates regarding student achievement and assessment and budget concerns, to name a few. I am asking the community to re elect me to the RH Board of Education. There are many more challenges ahead of us in the coming years, as well as the opportunity to see many successes from programs that we have put into place over the past few years. I would be honored to continue to serve this community as their representative, to ensure that our children get the very best education we can give them, in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.

VOTE MAY 19

Voter Eligibility

- **Personal identification will be required.**
- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old by May 19, 2009.
- 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 19, 2009, 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 Elizabeth Bevan, district clerk, at 359-5010.

2009-2010 Proposed Budget: Striving for a Fiscally Sound, Educationally Responsible Budget

- Keeps academic programs and student services at current levels
- Keeps both curriculum and staff development at current levels
- Keeps smaller class sizes at elementary schools
- Supports facility renovation projects districtwide
- Reduces the true value tax rate by 1.78 percent



RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009
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 the
following five (5) propositions.

Proposition No. 1
BUDGET PROPOSITION
\$100,405,638

Proposition No. 2
2009 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Proposition No. 3
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Proposition No. 4
2009 BUS RESERVE FUND

Proposition No. 5
BUS EXPENDITURES

*Propositions 2, 3, 4 and 5 will NOT
increase the budget or the tax rate.*

Rush-Henrietta Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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

2008-2009 Board of Education

Mr. Edward A. Lincoln, President
Mrs. Diane E. McBride, Vice President
Mrs. Susan E. Banker
Mrs. Pamela J. Reinhardt
Mrs. Sue A. Smith
Dr. William B. Stroud
Mrs. Phyllis P. Wickerham

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr.

Published by the Office of School Accountability and Community Relations

Mrs. Denise Anthony, Executive Director

Non-Profit Organization

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