



# Budget Newsletter

*Rush-Henrietta*  
Rush-Henrietta Central School District

May 2010

## 2010-2011 District Budget Proposal

Proposed Budget: \$102,056,654  
Budget-to-Budget Change: +1.64%  
Tax Rate Change: +1.94%

The Board of Education believes its proposed 2010-2011 budget is educationally sound and fiscally responsible, especially in light of the difficult economic circumstances facing our community. Rush-Henrietta's proposed budget-to-budget increase of 1.64 percent is among the lowest in Monroe County. The Board of Education is pleased that the proposal maintains all educational programs for children, while reducing projected operating expenses by \$3.9 million. Our projected true-value tax rate increase of no more than 1.94 percent means our tax rate would remain the lowest among the 17 local suburban school districts.

### Highlights of Proposed Budget:

- Maintains all instructional programs for students
- Maintains most student services
- Preserves the district's successful small-class-size initiative
- Reduces staffing by 18.6 positions
- Uses an additional \$1.7 million from reserve funds
- True value tax rate next year would be less than in 2006.

### What Does This Mean in Dollars and Cents?

- A resident with \$100,000 home and Basic STAR exemption would pay \$25.53 more next year.
- A resident with \$100,000 home and Enhanced STAR exemption would pay \$14.53 more next year.

### Did You Know?

- For the past four years, Rush-Henrietta methodically has reduced non-staffing spending. With voter approval of the proposed budget, Rush-Henrietta will have reduced projected operating expenses by \$7.5 million during the past two years.
- Thanks to aggressive cost-cutting, if the proposed budget is approved, Rush-Henrietta's true value tax rate in 2010-2011 will be lower than during the 2006-2007 school year.
- Moody's Investors Service, which grades bonds based on the financial stability of an organization, upgraded Rush-Henrietta's bond rating from A1 to Aa3. Moody's says it "expects the district's financial position to remain strong given its solid fiscal management that supports the maintenance of reserves that provide significant budgetary flexibility and financial cushion."
- 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 18

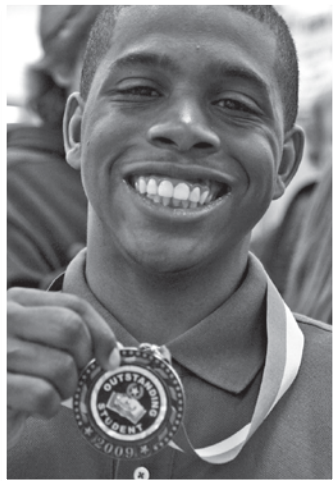


## Celebrating Stu

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 Quality Assurance and Community Relations at 359-5018, and is online at [www.rhnet.org/reportcards](http://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	2008-2009
3	78.6	77.8	81.9	85.0
4	75.4	76.5	81.6	83.3
5	76.8	79.0	85.9	89.0
6	66.7	77.5	75.5	85.7
7	66.7	67.9	82.1	87.2
8	53.4	66.1	67.4	82.7

### Math: % Meeting or Exceeding State Standards

Grade	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
3	88.4	92.7	93.2	97.0
4	83.1	88.4	92.6	91.9
5	77.0	76.5	91.4	94.1
6	67.1	82.1	86.6	91.0
7	63.8	70.4	92.2	93.5
8	61.1	56.6	78.9	94.1

### Science: % Meeting or Exceeding State Standards

Grade	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
4	92.3	94.5	96.3	94.2
8	88.1	88.9	88.9	73.4*

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

\* Eighth grade science results do not reflect the achievement of students in the accelerated Earth Science program. During the 2008-2009 school year, 285 eighth graders took the Earth Science Regents exam with an average passing rate of 95 percent.

### Social Studies: % Meeting or Exceeding State Standards

Grade	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
5	89.5	94.9	95.3	95.2
8	77.8	78.2	83.6	87.4

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



# Student Achievement

## 2009 New York State Regents Results

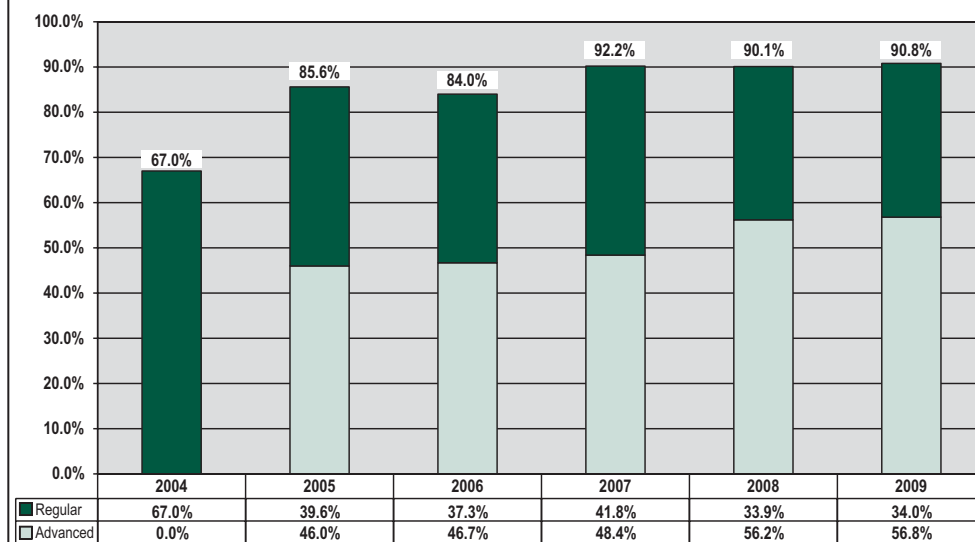
Regents Exam	# Tested	% Passing
ASL	47	91.5
English	477	96.2
French	80	92.5
German	12	100
Spanish	225	96.9
Integrated Algebra	626	84.3
Earth Science	558	77.2
Biology	532	92.5
Chemistry	470	72.8
Physics	205	63.4
Global History and Geography	537	84.9
U.S. History and Government	517	91.1

## Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement courses are offered in many academic areas. In Rush-Henrietta, Senior High School students wrote 674 AP exams, and 496 (74 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 2004-2009



## 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 2008-2009 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](http://www.rhnet.org/reportcards).

In addition, a hard copy of each report is available through the Office of Quality Assurance 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, 2010

Dear Community Resident:

On Tuesday, May 18, eligible voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2010-2011 school budget adopted by the Board of Education. The proposal reflects our commitment to present a budget that we believe is educationally sound and fiscally responsible, and continues our commitment to provide a high-quality education for all children in our school district.

During these challenging economic times, the Board of Education used a combination of financial strategies to develop the proposed 2010-2011 budget. For the third consecutive year, we have aggressively cut costs. In addition, through the use of reserve funds and a small increase in the tax rate, we believe we can preserve our educational programs and services for students with little additional burden to the taxpayer. Board members have approached this year's budget development process with some essential common principles. We developed a budget that will:

- maintain all instructional programs at current levels;
- maintain most student services at current levels;
- keep small class sizes, which have boosted student achievement, at current levels;
- reduce staffing only minimally;
- use additional reserve funds; and
- call for only a small increase in the true value tax rate.

In light of the governor's proposed 11 percent reduction in state aid, adhering to these principles presents a significant challenge. Unfortunately, further expense reductions of the sort the school district has implemented during the past several years simply will not suffice. To compensate for this multimillion-dollar reduction in state aid, we intend to withdraw an additional \$1.7 million from our reserve funds – the district's savings account – to balance the budget and minimize tax rate increases. We also are proposing the elimination of 18.6 full-time staff positions.

Even with these measures, we find it necessary to propose a small increase in the tax rate. Given our expense and revenue assumptions, we project a true value tax rate increase of no more than 1.94 percent. (The actual tax rate is established after the state budget is approved and town assessments are finalized.) This projected tax rate increase is among the lowest in Monroe County - all the while continuing to fund our current initiatives and school improvement priorities. Three of the past five years, we have reduced the true value tax rate. Even with a modest increase next year, Rush-Henrietta will continue to have the lowest true value school tax rate in Monroe County.

All eligible voters are urged to vote between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 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	944-8009
Diane E. McBride, Vice President	dmcbride@rhnet.org	334-0272
Susan E. Banker	sbanker@rhnet.org	334-3395
Pamela J. Reinhardt	preinhardt@rhnet.org	334-3793
Sue A. Smith	sasmith@rhnet.org	334-6563
William B. Stroud	wstroud@rhnet.org	383-8916
Phyllis P. Wickerham	pwickerham@rhnet.org	334-2095



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

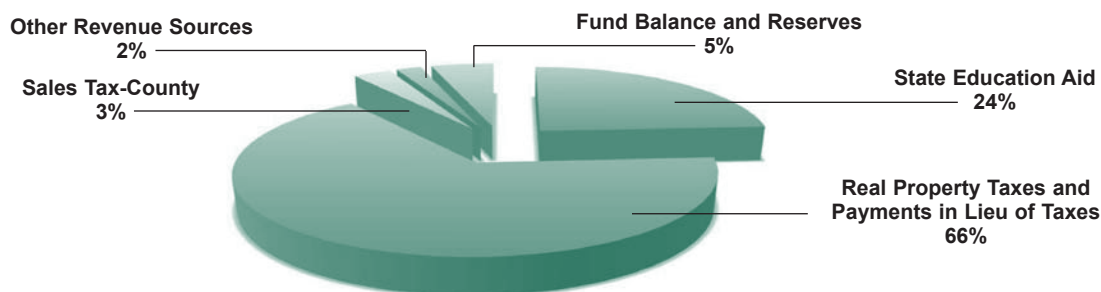


# Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

## 2010-2011 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2009-2010	2010-2011	% Change
State Education Aid	\$27,408,899	\$24,711,734	-9.84
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	63,740,643	66,266,473	3.96
Sales Tax-County	3,555,000	3,555,000	0.00
Other Revenue Sources	2,074,596	2,247,300	8.32
Fund Balance and Reserves	3,626,500	5,276,147	45.49
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$100,405,638</b>	<b>\$102,056,654</b>	<b>1.64</b>

### REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



## 2010-2011 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2010-2011 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

**Instruction: 58.4%** — 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.

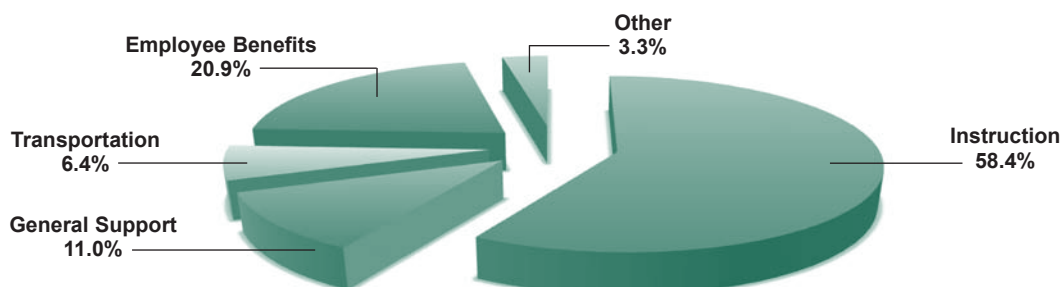
**General Support: 11.0%** — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board 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: 20.9%** — Included in the employee benefits category are social security, retirement, insurance and the risk fund which includes unemployment insurance, disability and life insurance.

**Other: 3.3%** — 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

## 2010-2011 Component Budget

### Administrative Component: 11.80% 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	2009-2010	2010-2011	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	119,747	117,406	(2,341)
Central Administration	351,157	356,753	5,596
Finance	553,355	554,322	967
Legal Services	72,446	74,050	1,604
Personnel	459,882	478,933	19,051
Public Information	320,225	293,146	(27,079)
Other Central Services	1,095,325	1,067,989	(27,336)
Other Special Items	1,309,770	1,335,982	26,212
Curriculum Development & Supervision	1,974,475	1,966,756	(7,719)
Supervision-Regular School	2,597,320	2,666,926	69,606
Supervision-Special School	277,308	285,709	8,401
Research, Evaluation & Planning	363,707	376,004	12,297
Employee Benefits	2,351,537	2,523,979	172,442
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,846,254</b>	<b>\$12,097,955</b>	<b>\$251,701</b>

### Program Component: 77.2% of Budget

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the District's students. Programs are offered in five elementary buildings, two middle schools, one 9th Grade Academy and one high school. Funds are also included in this component for transporting students.

Function or Account	2009-2010	2010-2011	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	53,618,140	54,101,995	483,855
In-Service Training	310,339	170,148	(140,191)
Other District Transportation	5,046,651	5,095,067	48,416
Garage Building	228,983	232,800	3,817
BOCES Transportation	1,142,807	1,189,054	46,247
Community Services	1,850	1,844	(6)
Employee Benefits	16,177,563	17,593,727	1,416,164
Other Transfers	410,000	385,000	(25,000)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$76,936,333</b>	<b>\$78,769,635</b>	<b>\$1,833,302</b>

### Capital Component: 11.0% 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	2009-2010	2010-2011	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	4,807,416	4,563,906	(243,510)
Maintenance of Plant	2,088,143	2,180,310	92,167
Refund of Taxes	100,000	100,000	0
Other Special Items	150,846	144,046	(6,800)
Employee Benefits	1,152,035	1,231,567	79,532
Transfer to Capital Fund	1,260,510	1,060,510	(200,000)
Debt Service	2,064,101	1,908,725	(155,376)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,623,051</b>	<b>\$11,189,064</b>	<b>(\$433,987)</b>

<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$100,405,638</b>	<b>\$102,056,654</b>	<b>\$1,651,016</b>
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# School District Budget Proposal

## 2010-2011 Proposed Expenditures

### Instruction: 58.4% of Budget

	2009-2010	2010-2011	% Change
Salaries	43,016,626	43,540,516	1.22
Equipment	417,540	388,604	-6.93
Supplies & Materials	1,269,757	977,390	-23.03
Textbooks & Software	512,132	505,543	-1.29
Contractual Expenses	1,391,826	1,438,437	3.35
BOCES	10,873,856	10,996,799	1.13
Tuition	1,659,552	1,720,249	3.66
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$59,141,289</b>	<b>\$59,567,538</b>	<b>0.72</b>

### General Support: 11.0% of Budget

	2009-2010	2010-2011	% Change
Salaries	4,278,307	4,315,890	0.88
Equipment	269,441	267,556	-0.70
Supplies & Materials	656,974	589,203	-10.32
Contractual Expenses	4,078,276	4,000,115	-1.92
BOCES	2,145,314	2,094,079	-2.39
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,428,312</b>	<b>\$11,266,843</b>	<b>-1.41</b>

### Transportation: 6.4% of Budget

	2009-2010	2010-2011	% Change
Salaries	3,346,013	3,402,822	1.70
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	1,929,621	1,925,045	-0.24
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	1,142,807	1,189,054	4.05
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$6,418,441</b>	<b>\$6,516,921</b>	<b>1.53</b>

### Employee Benefits: 20.9% of Budget

	2009-2010	2010-2011	% Change
Social Security	3,788,196	3,914,307	3.33
Retirement	4,583,784	4,777,715	4.23
Insurance	11,309,155	12,657,251	11.92
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$19,681,135</b>	<b>\$21,349,273</b>	<b>8.48</b>

### Other: 3.3% of Budget

	2009-2010	2010-2011	% Change
Bus Purchase Reserve Fund	557,010	557,010	0.00
Community Service	1,850	1,844	-0.32
Summer Handicapped Education	185,000	185,000	0.00
School Food Services	225,000	200,000	-11.11
Debt Service	2,064,101	1,908,725	-7.53
Transfer to Capital Fund	703,500	503,500	-28.43
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,736,461</b>	<b>\$3,356,079</b>	<b>-10.18</b>

<b>GENERAL FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$100,405,638</b>	<b>\$102,056,654</b>	<b>1.64</b>
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## Because

Since January, the Board of Education and Superintendent Ken Graham have been engaging the community in an open and frank dialogue about financial issues impacting our community and Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Board members and Dr. Graham, your superintendent of schools, have been answering questions on the district Web site at [www.rhnet.org/finances](http://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. We look forward to hearing from community members and seeing you during the budget vote on Tuesday, May 18. 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. 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.

### *Q* **What is a contingency budget and why does the school district publicize this?**

*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 would not be 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 corner voters into approving the proposed budget by publicizing contingency information. However, the school district is required to calculate the contingency budget information and to 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 is Rush-Henrietta doing to control costs?**

*A* The school district has explored many cost-saving measures during the past few years. To reduce heating costs, we have turned back thermostats to 68 degrees in all district buildings. To reduce electricity costs, for example, staff members who had personal heaters or refrigerators in their workspace removed those items or now pay a usage fee to cover the cost of operating a refrigerator. This year, for the first time, the district is not providing transportation to students attending private and parochial schools on days when Rush-Henrietta schools are closed. In addition, the district is exploring other potential cost-saving steps, such as installing more efficient lighting systems, which might cost more in the short-term but would be beneficial in the long-term. A grant in excess of \$200,000 was recently secured to help with some of these efforts. In addition, Rush-Henrietta works with other local school districts to save money, especially through cooperative bidding. To learn more, please watch a brief video at [www.rhnet.org/bestforless](http://www.rhnet.org/bestforless).

### *Q* **How are Rush-Henrietta students performing? Are my taxes making a difference?**

*A* You absolutely are making a difference! For the past six years, academic achievement of Rush-Henrietta students has improved! We shared this data in last year's budget newsletter, and we're doing the same now. Please see pages 2-3 of this newsletter to see the difference you are making.





## You Asked...

**Q How does an increase in my property assessment affect my school taxes?**

**A** School taxes are based on factors such as the school tax levy, property assessments, and equalization rates. The only factor within the district's control is the school tax levy, which is the total dollar amount we must collect from property owners to support school district operations.

When building the district budget each year, we begin by estimating the total dollars needed to pay for planned educational programs and services. Next, we estimate possible revenues, such as state aid, sales taxes, interest income, and various fees and payments made to the district each year. These revenue sources, which help pay for planned expenses, are combined and subtracted from the total expenditure projection.

The amount that remains is the tax levy, which is the total amount of tax dollars needed to make projected revenues equal to projected expenses. The tax rate is computed by dividing the tax levy – the total tax dollars needed – by the total value of all properties (ie: assessments) that make up the school district's tax base. The tax levy is shared on a proportionate basis by all taxpayers based on the assessed value of their property.

If your property assessment goes up, your school taxes may or may not increase. As an example, if your assessment increases on the same percentage basis that it does for all other property owners in town, and all other factors remain unchanged, your school tax bill would not change. This is because the tax burden still is being distributed equitably among all property owners. On the other hand, if your property assessment has increased at a higher percentage than other properties in town, your tax burden also will increase. In some instances, a particular neighborhood's property assessments will change more significantly than other properties throughout town.

The town is solely responsible for determining property assessments. If you have questions about your property assessment, please contact the town assessor. If you have questions about the school tax levy – the total dollars needed from property owners to support the operation of the school district – please contact us. We'd be happy to speak with you.

**Q What are the major factors impacting the development of the proposed 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 budget are fuel prices, utility costs, state aid allocations or reductions, contractual obligations, BOCES' charges, retirement costs, and health costs.

**Q When estimating the tax levy for the next school year, does the school district take into account property valuation?**

**A** Yes. Although the Rush-Henrietta Central School District plays no role in the assessment process, its business official contacts the town assessors each winter to ask for an estimate about how much overall property values might increase or decrease when assessments are released in the spring. This information helps the district develop a fiscally responsible budget proposal. Based on assumptions for overall property value assessments, we can estimate more accurately what the impact on the tax rate will be. This information is shared with the Budget Advisory Council, which provides feedback about whether they believe the community would support the proposed budget. During three of the past four years, Rush-Henrietta's tax rate has been reduced, lessening the burden on residents.

**Q How will the proposed budget affect homeowners?**

**A** The Board of Education's proposed budget maintains all academic programs and most services, while preserving the successful small-class-size initiative and limiting job cuts. The proposal calls for a budget-to-budget increase of 1.64 percent. The plan requires a true-value tax rate increase of no more than 1.94 percent. With a basic STAR exemption, for which the vast majority of homeowners are eligible, a Henrietta resident owning a house assessed at \$100,000 would see school taxes increase by \$25.53 next year. For seniors with the enhanced STAR exemption, school taxes would increase next year by \$14.53.



## On May 18, 2010, 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 2010-2011 in the total amount of \$102,056,654 and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

### Proposition 2 BUS EXPENDITURES

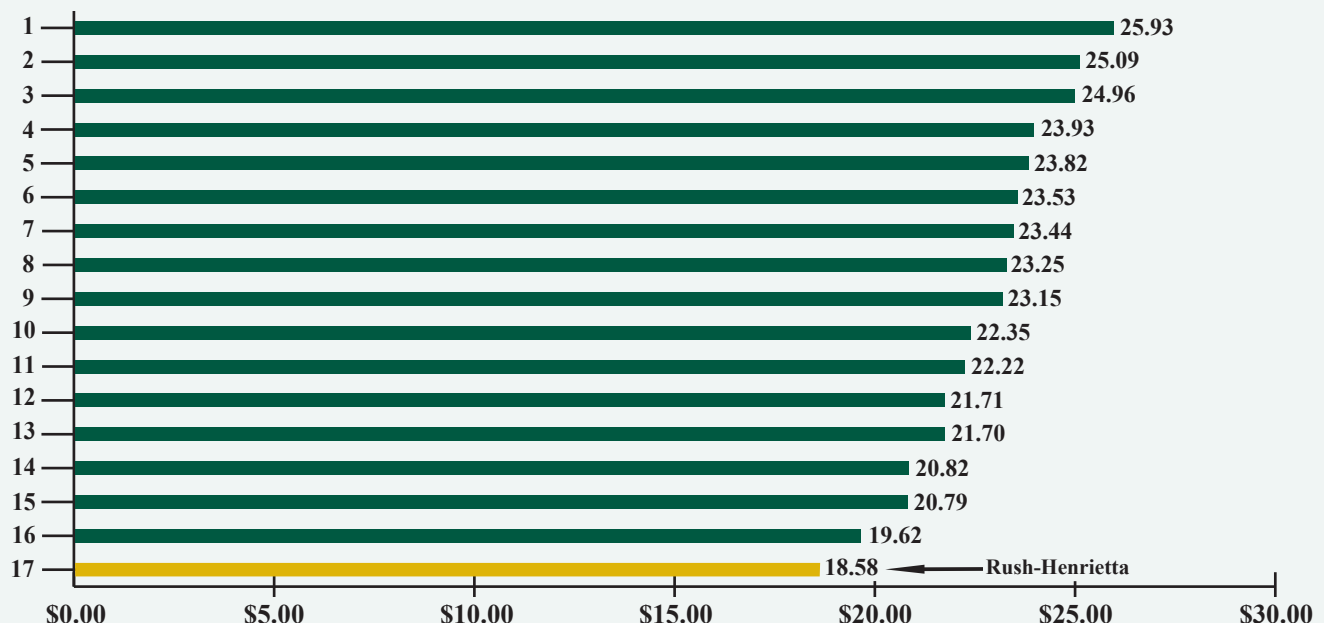
Shall the following proposition be adopted?

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of up to \$1,000,000 to be funded by the 2009 Bus Reserve Fund for the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of District students, in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

### 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\*





## Candidates Vie for Two Board of Education Seats

The school district is governed by a seven-member Board of Education elected by the eligible voters of the district. Members are volunteer public officials who serve without pay. As elected representatives of district residents, and as officers of the state of New York, board members must carry out duties required by the state Legislature, the Board of Regents, and the state Commissioner of Education. The board establishes policies for the operation of the district. On Tuesday, May 18, 2010, eligible voters in Rush-Henrietta will elect two (2) candidates to the Board of Education. The following information is provided by each candidate.



PHYLLIS P. WICKERHAM

**Name:** Phyllis P. Wickerham  
**Address:** 133 Blackwell Lane, Henrietta  
**District Resident:** 23 years  
**Family:** Husband, Thomas; Children, Scott, 31, and Tyler, 19  
**Education:** Southwestern Central School District  
**Employment:** Ann Taylor Inc.  
**Position:** Sales associate  
**Honors/Activities:** New York State School Boards Association Master of Boardsmanship Award; Treasurer, Family Advocates of Heritage Christian Services; Parent Presenter, The Advocacy Center family education and training program

### Statement:

As a member of the board for three years I have learned a lot about what I didn't know when it comes to running a school district. The challenges that we have faced over the last few years range from changes in education laws, unfunded mandates, fiscal accountability guidelines, and ever decreasing revenue sources. I believe that, as a team, we have been able to provide a sound, rigorous curriculum while being good stewards of your tax dollars despite the ever-changing regulations. I continue to be an active member of school district committees and countywide collaborations of parents, teachers, and administrators that allow me to learn about strategies and initiatives that are working throughout the region as Rush-Henrietta moves forward. I am asking the community to re-elect me so that I may continue to help guide the district on the path to success I know we are on.



JEAN CHAUDARI

**Name:** Jean Chaudari  
**Address:** 72 Apache Trail, Henrietta  
**District Resident:** 22 years  
**Family:** Husband, Tariq; daughters, Mariam (27), Sara (25), Hanna (23), Noreena (20), R-H alumni; Jenna (16) and Annisa (13), R-H students  
**Education:** St. Agnes High School, Regents diploma  
**Employment:** Rush-Henrietta Central School District  
**Position:** 1:1 aide  
**Honors/Activities:** 2006 Rush-Henrietta Central School District Volunteer of the Year; District Parent Advisory Council member (Sherman, Burger, Sperry); PTA president (Sherman); Space Committee member; Shared Decision Making member (Burger); kindergarten orientation chairperson (Sherman)

### Statement:

Over 20 years ago when my oldest daughter began kindergarten I found my place in the Rush-Henrietta school district as a volunteer. My employment with the district began when my youngest daughter entered first grade. Throughout this time I have come to know many families and educators. One of the things we all have in common is a desire to see the children succeed. If elected to the school board I will work diligently to ensure that our programs and services enhance the success of every student. Although I will dearly miss working with the students I feel that my years of experience will benefit the school board and ultimately the students.

## Rush-Henrietta Students Make Community Proud

Rush-Henrietta students continue to give the community plenty of reasons to be proud. Here is a small sampling of their notable achievements, none of which would be possible without the encouragement of our parents and community residents.

- The Senior High School Robotics team placed second in the First Tech Challenge Robotics Competition.
- The Senior High School has a semifinalist in both the National Achievement Scholarship Competition and National Merit Scholarship Competition.
- Three students exhibited art at the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo.
- The Rush-Henrietta STEP Team placed third in the annual Science Bowl Competition.
- Rush-Henrietta's boys varsity basketball team won the Section V title.
- Many Rush-Henrietta students participated in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Music Festival concert.
- The Senior High School chess team completed its season with a perfect record of 12-0.
- Rush-Henrietta students participated in efforts to benefit local

charities, including the American Heart Association, Pluta Cancer Center, American Cancer Society, the Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal, and the Ronald McDonald House.

- Students also took part in more global efforts. For example, they raised funds to help in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, and to build a school in Kenya.
- Four students advanced from state competition to qualify for the DECA International Career Conference in Lexington, Kentucky.
- A fifth grader from Fyle Elementary School won the Monroe County Volunteer Firemen's Association 2009 Fire Prevention Essay Contest.
- One of our students was named the Section V Indoor Track & Field Sportsmanship winner at the NYSPHSAA Championship.
- The school district's Mock Trial team advanced to the county finals, outlasting more than 20 teams from Monroe County.
- A Senior High School student was chosen for the 2009-2010 Hochstein Youth Symphonic Orchestra, the highest-level orchestra in the Hochstein School of Music.

These are accomplishments of which our entire community can be proud. To learn about the good work of our students and staff members, please visit the district Web site at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org).



# VOTE MAY 18

## Voter Eligibility

- **Personal identification will be required.**
- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old by May 18, 2010.
- 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 18, 2010, 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.*

## 2010-2011 Proposed Budget: Striving for a Fiscally Sound, Educationally Responsible Budget

- Maintains all instructional programs for students
- Maintains most student services
- Preserves the successful small-class-size initiative
- Reduces staffing by 18.6 positions
- Uses an additional \$1.7 million from reserve funds
- True value tax rate next year would be less than in 2006.



## RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010**  
**6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Vote at the Transportation  
and Operations Center**  
**1133 Lehigh Station Road**

**Voters will elect 2 members to  
the Board of Education  
and vote on the following  
two propositions.**

**PROPOSITION NO. 1**  
**BUDGET PROPOSITION**  
**\$102,056,654**

**PROPOSITION NO. 2**  
**BUS EXPENDITURES**

*Proposition 2 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](http://www.rhnet.org)

### 2009-2010 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 Quality Assurance and Community Relations

Mrs. Denise Anthony, Assistant Superintendent

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