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# Community Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

Fall 2014

## Board Proposes Full-Day Kindergarten, School Reconfiguration

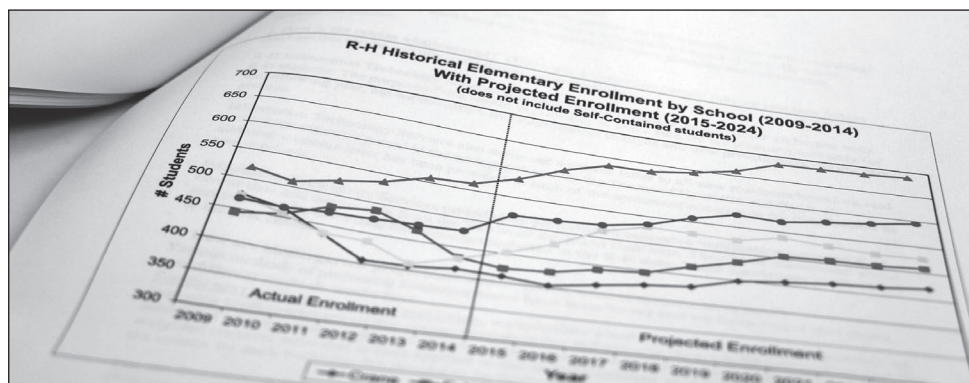
After much consideration, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education in November unanimously approved a proposal that would allow the district to offer full-day kindergarten, manage future enrollment, and meet the changing academic, emotional, and social needs of all students. The proposal calls for a school reconfiguration that will serve our students and community for the next several decades and addresses many concerns shared by parents throughout the years.

As outlined in a June 2013 *Henrietta Post* story about student enrollment, the district has been examining ways to meet the changing needs of its students for several years. Among the major challenges facing us now and in the future: We do not have enough classroom space to provide full-day kindergarten and keep our successful small-class-size initiative intact. Of equal concern, our elementary schools are becoming too dissimilar in size, a trend that will become more pronounced in future years.

In 2012, Superintendent Ken Graham asked the Instructional Space Committee to begin sharing ideas about how the district could provide full-day kindergarten given its space restraints. Last winter, the Board of Education directed Dr. Graham to recommend a plan that would allow for the implementation of full-day kindergarten. While researching this, he sought feedback from all corners. In September, Dr. Graham met with staff members from each school to discuss options and ask for their feedback. In October, he discussed possibilities with parent leaders who comprise the District Parent Advisory Council.

All told, the board evaluated more than a dozen alternatives and narrowed them down to two. The first alternative – adding a wing to each elementary

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## Public Hearing To Be Held Tuesday, Dec. 2, Regarding Veterans Exemption

In 2013, the New York State Legislature granted school boards the right to offer property tax exemptions to eligible veterans. The Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education soon will deliberate regarding the granting of the Alternative Veterans Exemption, which provides a partial break from school district property taxes to eligible war-time veterans and their spouses. If an exemption is granted to veterans, it will result in an increase in taxes to those taxpayers not eligible for the exemption. Input from the community is sought as to whether to grant the

Veteran Exemption for recognition of service to our country, which would result in a higher tax burden for non-qualifying taxpayers. Residents are welcome to speak during a public hearing at the Board of Education meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, in the Dee Strickland Conference Room at the Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta. All viewpoints will be considered. Comments also may be submitted via the school district website. Go to [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) and click the Contact Us button in the upper left-hand corner.

### Veterans Exemption Public Hearing

A public hearing regarding a potential veterans exemption will be held at:

7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014  
Parker Administration Building  
Dee Strickland Conference Rm.  
2034 Lehigh Station Road,  
Henrietta

### Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Potential Veterans Exemption

#### **Q. What is the Veterans Tax Exemption?**

**A.** It's a state law allowing municipalities to give veterans a reduction on their property taxes that was amended to permit school boards to do the same if they choose. Providing this exemption is a choice each district Board of Education must make based on what they believe is best for their community. School board members need to be certain that their community understands and supports any action that would increase tax bills for a large number of residents.

#### **Q. How does this law affect school districts?**

**A.** The law provides that boards of education have the option of approving a partial exemption on school property taxes for the primary residence of veterans who served in

defined periods of war or received an expeditionary medal for their service, and also for certain surviving members of their families. This would reduce the assessed value of a veteran's property in the following ways:

- By 15 percent for veterans who served during a time of war,
- By an additional 10 percent for veterans who served in combat,
- By one-half of a veteran's disability rating for veterans who sustained service-related injuries.

These percentages are subject to maximum dollar limits set by the state and chosen by the board.

#### **Q. What does the state currently do for our veterans?**

**A.** New York veterans receive the following forms of financial support in recognition of their contributions:

- Military pensions are exempt from state income tax.

- Veterans who pass the Civil Service exams receive 5-10 extra points for being a veteran.
- The state provides veterans lower mortgage rates, assistance with closing costs, and no points.
- Veterans of combats since 1961 can receive tuition payments for undergraduate and graduate programs for up to the full cost of SUNY tuition or actual tuition, whichever is less.

#### **Q. What does this mean for non-veterans who pay school taxes?**

**A.** An exemption for one group means taxes will increase for other residents not in that group. In this case, non-veterans would pay a higher share of school taxes to make up for the revenue lost by granting the exemption. If approved, the exemption would add between 0.6 percent and 1.7 percent to the tax rate for non-veterans.



## *Discover the R-H Advantage!*

This year, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District is celebrating the many reasons why our school district is a great place to learn and a great place to work. It's what we describe as the R-H Advantage!

We asked more than 100 people what the R-H Advantage means to them. Students, parents, teachers, staff members, and administrators shared dozens of reasons why Rush-Henrietta is a great place to learn and work. Their answers were inspiring and multi-faceted. On this page, we share some examples of what people told us. The students are listed by the schools they attended when the interviews were conducted.



**A great place to learn. A great place to work.**



*"I think Fyle's a great place to learn... because they have great teachers. I haven't met one mean teacher in the five years that I've been here."*

~ Kayla, Fyle student

*"My wife and I made the decision that we're staying in Henrietta and it's primarily because of the schools. Everything has been absolutely outstanding."*

~ DaTwan Dixon, Burger parent



*"I was Shrek in 'Shrek the Musical.' It was a really amazing experience. It's a great community that supports these kinds of programs."*

~ Dave, Senior High School student

*"[My teachers] are just as interested in the material they're teaching as they want you to be. They make learning it really fascinating and fun and engaging."*

~ Elyse, Senior High School student



*"I knew the minute I walked in here 20 years ago that I was going to love this school. ... It's just a fabulous place."*

~ Becky Petrocci, Crane Secretary

*"I'm very thankful and grateful to all of the people here who've done such a wonderful job with our kids."*

~ Linda Bischooping, Leary parent



*"I have this bus driver, John. He's really nice. In the morning, when I walk on the bus, he says, 'Good morning,' and that kind of stuff. He's really sweet."*

~ Kali, Leary student

*"We have an incredible group of professionals – teachers, social workers, counselors – who have made a choice to work in the alternative setting, and every day coming to work with these people is fabulous."*

~ Curt Diesenberg, Vollmer Administrator



*"I'm so glad mom picked this school for me. I can be the best person I want to be."*

~ Isaiah, Crane student

*"I'm not going to say that it's easy every day to do this, but I can't imagine being anywhere else."*

~ Denise Zeh, Roth Principal

See firsthand what people are saying about the Rush-Henrietta Central School District! Please watch our R-H Advantage by videos by visiting [www.rhnet.org/youtube](http://www.rhnet.org/youtube) today!



## ***Rush-Henrietta Invites You to “Like” District Facebook Page***



invited to take join us at [www.facebook.com/rhschools](http://www.facebook.com/rhschools). You can also simply search for “Rush-Henrietta CSD” on Facebook.

This past spring, we surveyed parents to find out how many were interested in learning about the district and our schools through social media. The vast majority of respondents named Facebook as their social-media platform of choice. We responded to this feedback and have been working on the new Rush-Henrietta page. The page contains information that is pertinent to parents and students, but it will also be relevant and interesting for the entire community.

Please visit our Facebook page and “like” it! We also encourage you to share the page with family members

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District has launched its official Facebook page! The entire community is

and friends. Thousands of people have connections to our school district and we want to make sure they are aware of our page and benefit from it.

Our social-media effort is intended to supplement, not replace, the traditional forms of communication that we use here in Rush-Henrietta. We will continue to post important news on the district website at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org). There will be times, though, when you will see a social-media exclusive - a photo, feature story, or interesting tidbit - that appears only on the Facebook page - so please like our page today!

The school year is off to a great start and we look forward to sharing an inside look with you via our Facebook page. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, family member, or resident here in our community, we hope you will keep in touch with us online. Thank you for your continued support of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.

## ***Rush-Henrietta Introduces Propane-Fueled Buses***

This year, Rush-Henrietta welcomes two new propane-fueled buses to its fleet. These buses are more environmentally friendly and have an excellent safety record. Each of the buses is labeled “Powered by Propane” near the bus number. During our New Teacher Orientation in August, dozens of staff members rode one of these buses as they received a tour of the school district, and now our students are enjoying greener, cleaner rides on them, as well.



### ***R-H Information is Only a Click Away!***

Visit the district’s redesigned website for comprehensive information about Rush-Henrietta schools. Also, consider subscribing to one of the district’s most popular services, E-News, which provides brief e-mail notifications, announcements, and reminders about important meetings, activities, and issues. Visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) today!

## School Board Members Set 2014-2015 Goals

By Diane McBride, Board of Education President

Much like our students and staff, the seven members of the all-volunteer Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education have set goals for themselves this year. My colleagues and I would like to share some of these objectives with you and reinforce our desire to remain in close communication with you this school year.

Our first goal this school year is to engage in strategic planning that will benefit the district in the long-term. In addition to participating in the annual strategic planning forum and adopting district priorities, both of which have been completed already this year, we look forward to finalizing plans for full-day kindergarten, adopting an instructional space plan, engaging in a comprehensive review of our ASL program, and reviewing the district mission.

Second, in terms of policy and governance, we will continue our annual review of one-third of school district policies and regulations. By doing this, we are able to review all Rush-Henrietta policies and regulations every three years. We also will continue efforts to formalize mechanisms for recognizing memorials and scholarships. At the same time, we will develop scholarship fund criteria and a process for acknowledging memorials.

Third, we will seek to make wise decisions in the areas of staffing and resource management. We plan to adopt a financing plan for full-day kindergarten, adopt a proposed 2015-2016 budget, and review and update our reserve fund plan.

Finally, we will continue to advocate externally for our school district by increasing our awareness of legislative issues at both state and national levels. We will be more engaged in state and county associations and in legislative

lobbying efforts, using our experiences to benefit our school district. In addition, we plan to put our many years of leadership to use, continuing to share best practices with other boards throughout the state.

I hope you find this information useful. If you would like more information, contact me, Diane McBride, at 334-0272 or [dmcbride@rhnet.org](mailto:dmcbride@rhnet.org). You are also invited to contact my board colleagues. Their information is available online at [www.rhnet.org/meettheboard](http://www.rhnet.org/meettheboard). Thank you for your continued support!

*Diane E. McBride is president of the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education. The Board of Education is comprised of seven community members elected to serve unpaid, three-year terms. The board members are pictured below. In the front row, from left to right, are Phyllis Wickerham, vice president; Robert C. Bower; and Pamela J. Reinhardt. In the back row, from left to right, are Sue A. Smith; Diane E. McBride, president; Jean M. Chaudari; and Rosie B. Mitchell. To view meeting agendas and minutes, please visit [www.rhnet.org/boarddocs](http://www.rhnet.org/boarddocs).*





## Four Graduates Inducted



### Ronald Boillat Class of 1977

Ronald Boillat, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1977, has enjoyed a successful business career supporting start-up ventures, turnaround situations, and established entities.

His initial business experience was at ACC Long Distance, a regional carrier in Upstate New York. Ron spent eight years at this start-up, ending his tenure as vice president of sales and marketing. He spent the next 12 years in the wireless industry, six with Cellular One as vice president of sales and marketing. He oversaw the day-to-day operations of the company and played a key role in shaping the strategic direction of the company.

Ron later joined Frontier Cellular, which was facing a significant challenge. Its growth was well below industry averages and it was losing money. By developing and executing an aggressive strategic plan, including implementation of CDMA technology ahead of its competitors, Ron was able to help the company post record growth that outpaced the industry. From 2001 to 2009, he served as president of Current Communications, a privately held company.

Today, Ron serves as chief development officer at Rochester-based Sweetwater Energy. The company uses a patented technology to produce low-cost sugar solutions from non-food biomass. This sugar solution is sold to refineries, which use it to produce biofuels, biochemicals, and bioplastics. Unlike petroleum-based technologies, this unique process significantly reduces greenhouse gases. Ron is responsible for the design, deployment, and operation of Sweetwater's demonstration plant in Rochester and its commercial facilities that will open throughout the United States during the next two years.

In addition to his successful business ventures, Ron has been involved in his community. His volunteer service includes sitting on the board of directors at Bivona Child Advocacy Center, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He also has coached youth baseball, football, and soccer for more than a decade. Ron was honored with the Rochester Business Journal's prestigious "40 Under 40" award, which recognizes men and women 40 and younger who have achieved professional success and made significant contributions to our community.

A member of the 1976 state champion football team, Ron remembers his time at Rush-Henrietta fondly. He lives in Pittsford.



### Sherry Powers Finzer Class of 1981

Sherry Powers Finzer, a 1981 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is an internationally known flutist and recording artist.

A renowned flutist, Sherry blends her classical training with music from the pop and jazz eras, composing and performing contemporary instrumental compositions, and using her music as a way to help people heal both mentally and physically. As a classical flutist she has won local and national flute competitions.

Sherry is a performing artist for the Pearl Flute Company, based in Japan, and Gwo Flutes, based in Taiwan. She recorded her first solo album, *Desert Journey*, in 2007. Two years later, she began recording her *Sanctuary* series of New Age/Healing music on the Heart Dance Records label. Her most recent release, *Transformation*, was named Best Album 2013 by the United Kingdom-based One World Music.

Sherry's music can be found on iTunes, Pandora, and Amazon. In 2015, she will tour internationally with Australian pianist, Fiona Joy, and in the United States with Native American flutist, Mark Holland.

Even while in the midst of her greatest professional success, Sherry continues to look for ways to make positive contributions to her community. In 2009, she founded the Arizona Music Initiative, a not-for-profit organization designed to inspire, educate, and entertain children, seniors, and people with special needs. In addition, she is a regular volunteer at several Phoenix-area middle schools, where she assists band directors in getting the most out of their flute sections. Reflecting on her own schooling, Sherry credits Howard Rowe, one of her high school music teachers, for encouraging her passion for musical performance.

Sherry has served as program chair for the Arizona Flute Society for three years and is a member of the National Flute Association and World Flute Society. She hosts a weekend radio show each Saturday and Sunday on Positive Music Radio at [www.postivemusicradio.net](http://www.postivemusicradio.net).

Sherry lives in Phoenix with her husband, Chuck, a 1981 Rush-Henrietta graduate. They have two sons, Nick and Tyler.

# into the Hall of Fame



**Harry Howitt**  
**Class of 1964**

Harry Howitt, Ph.D., a 1964 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a retired United States Air Force colonel who has spent his professional career helping others as a clinical psychologist. He enjoyed a 33-year military career, during which he was described as a "superstar leader."

A Vietnam veteran, Harry was assigned to the Military Advisory Command in Saigon in 1969. During his active military service, he received the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal four times for outstanding performance at a military installation.

A lifetime member of the American Psychological Association, Military Division, Harry earned many other honors, including being named Air Force Psychologist of the Year. He also received the Legion of Merit Medal. This recognized his high level of performance and dedication to the military both as a psychologist and for his leadership while serving as a commander for a Medical Operations Squadron, at the Air Force's largest Behavioral Medicine Department, and as hospital commander at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. He also served as president of the Air Force Society of Clinical Psychologists.

Since retiring in 2003, Harry has worked full-time at the Joint Military Base, located at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. He serves as a behavioral health psychology consultant to all branches of the military, helping airmen, sailors, and soldiers reach their full potential.

Harry is a member of the Men's Health Network Advisory Board, a distinguished group of professionals who are dedicated to raising public awareness about mental health. As part of his work with the Men's Health Network, Howitt contributed to a booklet titled, "Your Head: An Owner's Manual." The book addresses anxiety, depression, and stress.

The Men's Health Network is just one of many successful endeavors in which Harry has been involved. As Brig. Gen. Garry Trexler wrote of the airman while recommending him for a promotion, "Everything he touches turns to gold."

Harry credits Mr. Elliott, Mr. Pruden, Ms. Theofanis, and Mr. Rittenhouse for helping to shape him, his interests, and future success while he was a student at Rush-Henrietta.

Harry lives in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Caroline.



**Donna Warfield**  
**Class of 1975**

Donna Warfield, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1975, has enjoyed success in multiple fields, including as a recording artist, composer, author, and ordained minister. Her career as an inspirational speaker, teacher, coach, and volunteer spans more than two decades.

Donna graduated with a dual MBA degree from Atlanta University and spent 13 years in Georgia, building her business skills and expanding her faith-based initiatives. She has enjoyed a rewarding career in information technology, working for some of the biggest names in business, including 3M, UNISYS, Xerox Corp., Amoco Oil/BP, and MCI/WorldCom. Today, she is a senior regional trainer for Kaiser Permanente.

Early in her career, influential coaches and mentors inspired Donna to give back. One of those mentors was Lee Iacocca, former president and CEO of Chrysler Corporation, who mentored Donna when she participated in one of the company's internship programs. Among Iacocca's lessons: Use the gifts and talents you have been given to help others.

In 2005, Donna wrote the bestselling self-help book, "Whatever Floats Your Boat." In 2012, she wrote and recorded "Dramatized - Your Life a Song Only YOU Can Sing," a collection of inspirational spoken words coupled with songs that represent Donna's life experiences and express her spirituality.

A strong advocate of serving the community, Donna has served on a number of boards in greater Atlanta, including Goodwill Industries North Advisory Board, The Center for Children and Youth, The Center for Children and Young Adults, The Sullivan Center and the Georgia Association of Personnel Services. Donna attributes her strong interest in community service to the influence of her parents.

Her volunteer efforts have taken her around the world. In 1999, Donna served as a missionary to Africa, where she visited countries such as Kenya and Uganda. There, she taught children and adults in classroom settings and villages.

Donna lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

## Technology Plan Includes Chromebooks for Seventh Graders

Each seventh grader in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District recently received a Chromebook assigned especially to them for the 2014-2015 school year.

As the new devices were shared with students, they were eager to use them. "This will make me more excited about learning," says Veronica Szaba, a seventh grader at Roth Middle School. Other students agreed and were enthusiastic about how the new technology will help them learn and collaborate with others.

As part of the district's five-year technology plan, more than 400 Chromebooks were issued to students in September. The plan involves expanding district infrastructure and acquiring devices that will provide instant access to the Internet and web-based tools for all students. The goal is to make technology a universal tool that is used by everyone in the classroom. The entire plan can be viewed at [www.rhnet.org/technologyplan](http://www.rhnet.org/technologyplan).

Providing Chromebooks to all seventh graders is one of the first steps in the five-year plan. According to an August 11, 2014, story in *The Guardian* newspaper, "Chromebooks run a stripped-down form of Linux tuned by Google and hook into Google's cloud

services, with minimal local storage; in effect they offer a browser-based operating system around its Chrome browser. In the U.S. education market, they have begun to rival Apple's iPad for educational sales,<sup>7</sup> because they have comparable prices and come with built-in physical keyboards and have strong remote administration functionality."



Teachers and students will have access to the tools from anywhere and at any time via cloud computing in a controlled, web-based learning environment. "To reach today's learners, teachers must move beyond traditional teaching methods to more authentic, real-world experiences," says Dina Wilson, Rush-Henrietta's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "This includes the use of technology to connect students to the world around them. To be college and career ready, students must

be able to interact in this new learning environment. The future of learning and work is digital, and students need access to digital learning to become fluent."

Thanks to the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education and the community, our students are being prepared for a technology-rich career and life. Our school district remains committed to offering the best possible education to Rush-Henrietta students and we appreciate your continued support.





## *Make a Difference by Volunteering in Our Schools!*

Supported by talented and dedicated faculty and staff members, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District offers high-quality learning experiences to its students. To supplement these efforts, the school district regularly partners with volunteers. They play an important role in preparing students for responsible citizenship, productive employment, and lifelong learning. We welcome volunteers whose involvement will provide students with positive, educational experiences.

There are countless ways to volunteer, whether through a long-term commitment, such as serving on our Board of Education, a short-term obligation, such as visiting one of our schools. Many volunteers take time from their busy schedules to visit students in school. When a parent, business owner, or other community member shares his or her talents and experiences during

a school activity or lesson, our children benefit. Our students learn and retain more when community members take an active role in their schooling.

Rush-Henrietta strives for ways to ensure that student learning and educational opportunities extend beyond the classroom. Volunteers of all types enhance these efforts. Our volunteers are a diverse

group in terms of age, ethnicity, and life experiences. From teens to senior citizens, each brings a unique perspective to students, and possesses an ability to share real-world experiences that help make classroom learning more relevant to a child. Whether you are an interested parent, business owner, or district resident, we have the perfect opportunity for you! To learn more, visit [www.rhnet.org/volunteer](http://www.rhnet.org/volunteer).



*Many parents volunteer each fall to represent their child's school on the Instructional Space Committee. It's one of the many ways parents and residents can become more involved.*

## *New Website Provides Easier Access to Sports Team Information*

We have great news to share about exciting improvements in how sports team schedules are maintained and shared by the Rush-Henrietta Central School District!

The Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference has a brand new website that offers sports information for 23 local school districts, including Rush-Henrietta. The site is available at [www.rhnet.org/sportsschedules](http://www.rhnet.org/sportsschedules) or by clicking the "Sports Schedules" link on the left side of the district homepage at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org).

The new site allows you to easily view Rush-Henrietta athletic events by day of the week, an entire week, or a full month or season. Want to cheer on the varsity girls soccer team? Once you choose a specific game, a pop-up box will provide the time, date, location, and driving directions. You can print this information or share it with friends and family members on Facebook or Twitter with the click of a button!

Interested in the entire varsity girls soccer schedule? Just click "Soccer - Girls Varsity" and select

"View." A pop-up window displays the schedule for the entire season. The site is designed to provide instantaneous updates to athletes and their families. As soon as a district enters information or makes a change to the schedule, you will see it online.

In addition, the new website allows you to e-mail the full season schedule to anyone, including yourself, or download the schedule. For the convenience of our families, the new Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference website

*continued on page 10...*



## *Safety Comes First in Rush-Henrietta Schools*

*A*s part of our ongoing efforts to make our schools as safe as possible, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District held daily safety drills during the first week of November. These drills were designed to assess how well we would respond during an emergency. They included:

- a visitor management drill, designed to assess how well visitors are greeted, screened, and identified when they visit.
- an early dismissal drill. The school day ended 10 minutes early and students were sent directly to their bus.
- an AED/CPR drill to ensure that the staff members trained in the use of the automated external defibrillator are prepared to act at a moment's notice.
- a lockout drill. During this kind of drill, all school doors are locked and no one is allowed to enter or exit the building.
- a K-9 sweep at each of our secondary schools performed by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

This year, Rush-Henrietta continues to use a visitor management system designed to offer additional security for students, staff members, and visitors. Visitors must show photo identification upon entering any Rush-Henrietta school. This step is necessary even if the person is well known to the staff members who greet them. The photo is scanned, stored, and printed on a badge that must be worn for the duration of the visit. The badge indicates the date, visitor's name, and a specific school location, depending on the reason for coming to the building. After 12 hours, red lines will appear on the badge, rendering it null and void. Once the photo is scanned and stored, it will be accessible when visiting any Rush-Henrietta school.

We continue to partner with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and local fire and ambulance crews to prepare for emergencies. In addition, the district offers a Safety Tip Line (359-7867 or 359-STOP), which allows any community member to report situations that may pose a threat to the safety or well being of students, staff members, or school property. The tip line is monitored regularly and all calls remain confidential.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue our efforts to make the Rush-Henrietta Central School District a safe place for students, staff members, and the community at large.

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### *New Website Provides Easier Access to Sports Team Information, Continued*

allows you to subscribe to any team schedules of interest. Simply click the "Subscribe" link to add selected calendars to your Outlook, iCal, or Google calendars. You also may opt to subscribe to specific team calendars via RSS reader. You also can receive automatic text or e-mail notifications and reminders regarding sports schedules for any and all Rush-Henrietta teams. To

set up this service, simply click the "Notify Me!" link.

In addition, by clicking "Advanced View Report," you can create printable reports based on individual sport or location, by age level or event type, or time period. You can even show events only on a particular day of the week – a great feature the next time a friend tells

you, "I'd love to watch Jimmy play, but I'm only available on Tuesday afternoons."

Rush-Henrietta is pleased to make these enhancements available to our student athletes and their families. We encourage you to visit [www.rhnet.org/sportsschedules](http://www.rhnet.org/sportsschedules) today and see for yourself the convenience and power of the new site.

## ***Board Proposes Full-Day Kindergarten, School Reconfiguration, Continued***

*...continued from page 1*

school – addressed the district's minimum goal of adding extra space needed to provide full-day kindergarten. In talking to parents and staff members, it became clear that, rather than adding more space to each elementary school to accommodate full-day kindergarten, the entire student body could benefit from a more comprehensive school reconfiguration.

Those conversations led to a second alternative – the one approved by the board – in which the district would have four K-3 schools, two 4-6 schools, and two 7-9 schools. The Senior High School would continue to house grades 10-12. All programs at Vollmer Learning Center would move to the Webster Building, which is now the Ninth Grade Academy.

This alternative would provide the space needed for full-day

kindergarten and allow us to bolster programs and services for all students. We look forward to sharing examples with you in the weeks to come. These include enhancements to our academic, athletic, and music programs; additional instructional time in ELA and math; and the potential for wrap-around child care at our elementary schools, among others.

Both alternatives required redistricting of attendance areas to ensure that our schools are equitable both in terms of their physical space and number of students. The Instructional Space Committee was preparing to discuss attendance areas as the newsletter went to press.

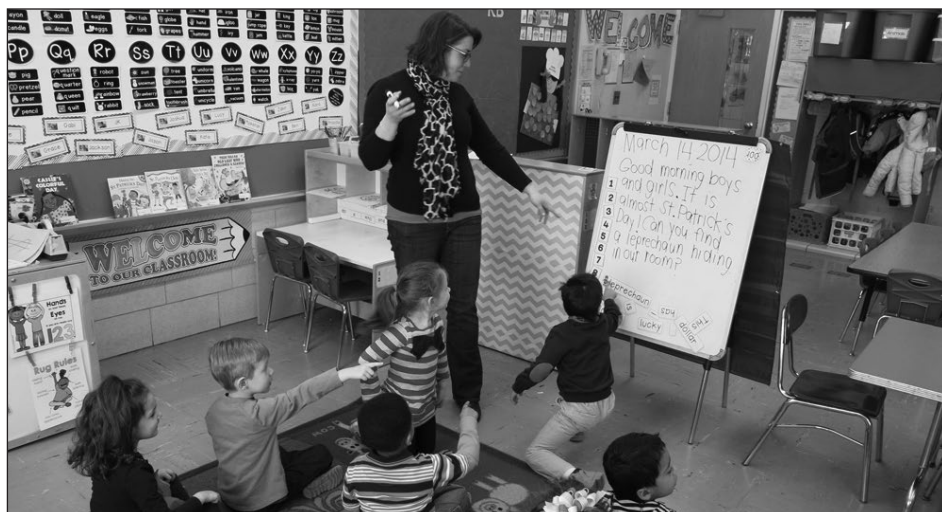
Given that both alternatives cost roughly the same amount, the Board of Education voted to pursue the option that reconfigures the schools for maximum long-term

benefit. The proposal costs about \$18 million. The district has saved the money in reserve funds, so there would be no impact on school taxes should residents approve the proposal.

A public vote will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10. If the proposal is approved, the Board of Education would direct district staff to implement these changes, which would go into effect as early as the 2017-2018 school year. If it is defeated, the Board of Education will revisit the other alternative, which provides additional space at our elementary schools without the program enhancements for all students.

The district will continue providing information via the district website, Facebook page, and through the mail. In December and January, members of the Board of Education will attend a parent group meeting at each school, explaining the proposal and answering questions. In addition, the district will hold two community forums in January. The times and locations for these meetings will be set soon. We encourage you to attend!

In the meantime, we are compiling questions and answers in a Frequently Asked Questions section on the district website. If you have questions about the proposal, visit [www.rhnet.org/askus](http://www.rhnet.org/askus) and share them with us. Thank you for your continued interest in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District!



*The Board of Education has agreed there is an instructional need for full-day kindergarten. What used to be taught in first grade is now taught in kindergarten. What used to be taught in kindergarten is now taught in pre-K programs, like the one shown here at Vollmer Learning Center.*



## *Rush-Henrietta* **Rush-Henrietta Central School District**

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Henrietta, New York 14467  
(585) 359-5000  
[www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org)

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### **Superintendent of Schools**

J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Ph.D.

**Published by the Office of Community Relations**

## **Did You Know?**

- **Our Food Services department prepares and serves nearly 4,000 meals each day.**
- **Rush-Henrietta buses travel more than 1.4 million miles each year to transport our students.**
- **Our school nurses respond to more than 3,500 student office visits each month.**
- **Students check out more than 21,000 books each month from our school libraries.**
- **Nearly two-dozen community groups use district buildings and grounds – for more than 13,300 hours – each year.**
- **Each day, our custodians and cleaners clean nearly 1.2 million square feet, the equivalent of nearly 600 homes that are each 2,000 square feet.**
- **The Rush-Henrietta Central School District is grateful for your continued support!**