



# Budget Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

May 2023



VOTE MAY 16

## 2023-2024 District Budget Proposal

Proposed Budget: \$161,779,198  
Budget-to-Budget Change: 6.7%  
Tax Rate Change: 1.98% or less

The Board of Education is pleased to present a proposed budget it believes is educationally sound, fiscally responsible, and equitable. Developing a budget is a complex task during a typical year, let alone addressing ongoing needs caused by a global pandemic and during a time of high inflation. Fortunately, this year's planning was made easier thanks to additional funding received from the state and federal governments. Although the Rush-Henrietta Central School District continues to deal with rising mandatory expenses, such as health insurance and special education, Board of Education members believe this budget is responsive to recent events, including the continuing effects of the pandemic on our students and community.

Rush-Henrietta is proposing a budget-to-budget increase of 6.7 percent. This is higher than normal and results from federal stimulus funds provided for incremental support. Under this proposal, the true value tax rate would increase 1.98 percent or less, and the total tax levy would be within the limits established under the state's Tax Levy Cap. Rush-Henrietta's tax rate will remain among the lowest of the 17 local suburban school districts. The Board of Education is pleased that the proposal maintains all educational programs for children.

### Highlights of Proposed Budget

- Preserves instructional programs and services for more than 5,400 students.
- Maintains benefits of district's successful small-class-size initiative at K-3 schools.
- Provides incremental supports for student learning recovery.

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

- Taking into account the School Tax Relief (STAR) benefit – for which all homeowners are eligible – a district resident owning a house assessed at \$200,000 would see school taxes increase by \$70 annually.
- One of Rush-Henrietta's objectives is to maintain existing programs and services while minimizing the impact to the taxpayer.

### Did You Know?

- If the proposed budget is approved, Rush-Henrietta's true value tax rate in 2023-2024 will be lower than it was during the 2005-2006 school year.
- Moody's Investors Service recently reaffirmed the district's Aa2 Bond Rating, citing the district's "sound financial position, stable tax base influenced by a degree of institutional presence, and a below average direct debt burden." The district's reserve funds were cited as a financial strength.
- Rush-Henrietta has had one of the lowest true value tax rates in Monroe County for years. **Under the proposed budget, Rush-Henrietta will have one of the lowest rates again next year.**



## *From the Board of Education*

May 1, 2023

Dear Community Resident:

On Tuesday, May 16, eligible voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2023-2024 budget adopted by the Board of Education. We believe this proposal is educationally sound, fiscally responsible, equitable, and responsive to our changing economy and recent inflationary concerns.

Inflation is a challenge at home, and that is true here in the school district, as well. The change in the Consumer Price Index for the past year has been a stunning 8 percent. Our district has tried to identify additional efficiencies to help keep costs down for our community. One of our primary objectives is to maintain existing programs and services for students while minimizing any additional impact to the taxpayer. This proposed budget also maintains the benefits of the district's small-class-size initiative for K-3 students.

With this in mind, the Board of Education has adopted a budget that calls for a tax rate increase of 1.98 percent or less. For a decade, the final true value tax rate was lower than the proposed rate. The actual tax rate is established after town assessments are finalized. As in prior years, Rush-Henrietta's projected tax rate increase is among the lowest in Monroe County. If the proposed budget is approved by voters, our district's tax rate will be lower than it was nearly 20 years ago!

As a community, we are fortunate that Rush-Henrietta finds itself in a better position than many other districts. That is largely because of prudent financial decisions made during the past few decades. This allows us to preserve existing instructional programs and student services for next year while expanding support for students in areas school and district leaders identified.

**All eligible voters are urged to vote between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at the Transportation and Operations Center, 1133 Lehigh Station Road.** One does not need to own property in the district to vote, but must reside here and be a U.S. citizen. If you have questions, please contact a board trustee listed below.

Voters will have the opportunity to choose two candidates to serve on the Board of Education. In addition to the budget proposal, three more propositions are presented for voter approval. These propositions may be viewed on page 9.

With support from our students, parents, employees, and residents, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District continues to thrive. We appreciate the strong support our community continues to show for our school district and its students.

Sincerely,

Diane E. McBride  
President, Board of Education

### **2022-2023 Board of Education**

Diane E. McBride, President	dmcbride@rhnet.org	585-334-0272
Scott M. Adair, Vice President	sadair@rhnet.org	585-329-9182
Mai Abdullah	mabdullah@rhnet.org	585-734-3063
Suzanne Bennett	sbennett@rhnet.org	585-334-8014
Jennifer M. Laird	jlaird@rhnet.org	585-738-1584
Douglas J. Rivers	drivers@rhnet.org	585-721-0732
Rachel Sherman	rsherman@rhnet.org	617-780-5275

## 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. This year, eligible voters in Rush-Henrietta will elect two candidates to the Board of Education. The following information is provided by each candidate. A random drawing determined the ballot order of the candidates.



### Laura Borate

**RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT:** 16 years

**FAMILY:** Spouse, Brian; Children, Kayleigh (17), William (14)

**EDUCATION:** Monroe Community College, associate's degree in Human Services

**EMPLOYMENT:** Physician Support Specialist for Acute Care Surgery & Trauma, University of Rochester Medical Center (2018 to present); Direct Support Professional at New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (2006-2018)

**HONORS/ACTIVITIES:** Member, Crane Elementary PTO (2012-2017); Board Secretary, Crane Elementary PTO (2014-2017); began Crane's Penguin Patch program; Chairperson, Roth Junior High Parent Group (2017-2023) - in this capacity, helped support the school's Staff Appreciation efforts; Representative, District Parent Advisory Council for Crane, Sherman, and Roth (2014-2021); 2nd Vice-Chair, District Parent Advisory Council (2017-2020); and involved with previous Rush-Henrietta superintendent search and transition, as well as district reconfiguration.

**STATEMENT:** I am an invested parent who has volunteered at both the building level and the district as a whole. Running for a seat on the Board of Education is something I have had interest in for many years. I made the decision to run this year because, unlike past years, I now have the time to dedicate. I have had the support of amazing

mentors (parents, coworkers, teachers, administrators and students) that have encouraged and inspired me and I hope to pass that on. I am going to continue to be an approachable advocate for our district. I am not perfect. I wake up every day and choose to listen, empathize, share, and support even when it's not easy. I am a proud member of an amazing community and hope to share that positivity with everyone.



### Carrie Silva Martin

**RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT:** 17 years

**FAMILY:** Spouse, Felix Silva Berrios; Children, Anthony (16), Fenix (11), Eliana (10)

**EDUCATION:** Continental School of Beauty, Cosmetology

**EMPLOYMENT:** Manager, Blush Beauty Bar

**HONORS/ACTIVITIES:** Co-President, Vollmer PTO; Vice President, District Parent Advisory Council; Member, Special Education Program Advisory Council; Past President, Fyle Elementary PTO

**STATEMENT:** I have been an active member of the Rush-Henrietta school community for the past six years. I am the co-president for the Vollmer PTO, vice president of the District Parent Advisory Council, and a member of the Special Education Program Advisory Council. I also was a member of the Fyle Elementary PTO, serving as its president for three years. I believe in the district priorities and want to advocate for more mental health services and safety for all students and staff. We need to continue to create equitable and inclusive environments for all of our students to become successful adults in our community. I support the appointment of the new superintendent and look forward to working with Dr. Mullen and members of the school board to maintain transparency, honesty, and communication with all members of our community.



### Shiloh Arthmann

**RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT:** 46 years

**FAMILY:** Children: Tyler (21), Ally (15), Xander (13), Tory (12)

**EDUCATION:** Rush-Henrietta Class of 1994; SUNY Empire State College, working toward bachelor's degree in management; Mental Health First Aid Certification from National Council for Mental Wellbeing

**EMPLOYMENT:** Team Lead in Human Resource Implementation, Paylocity Inc.

**HONORS/ACTIVITIES:** Co-President, R-H Sports Booster Club (2018 to present); R-H Girl Scout Service Unit Manager (2017 to present); Girl Scout Co-Leader (2016 to present); R-H Falcons Soccer Club Travel Board Member (2016 to present); Rush-Henrietta Soccer Travel Board Parent Liaison (2017 to present); parent volunteer for various school activities at Fyle and Vollmer during the past 16 years.

**STATEMENT:** I am a lifelong resident of Henrietta and proud second-generation R-H graduate. I have always been involved in the R-H community in some form. As my children joined different clubs, sports, etc., I made it my mission to learn more about those groups and be involved by helping any way I could. I believe transparency is key in any organization and have listened to concerns from different stakeholders in those various groups. By doing this, I have been able to make a difference to those organizations and the people in them. As my kids get older, I want to help

make a bigger impact on the community. Being on the Board of Education will allow me to do this. If elected, it would be my honor to be a voice for the community and represent a district that I have been a part of my whole life.



## Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Notice

## Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$151,625,968	\$161,779,198	\$159,405,762
Increase/(Decrease) for the 2023-24 School Year		\$10,153,230	\$7,779,794
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		6.7%	5.1%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$87,123,380	\$89,496,816	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-	-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$87,123,380	\$89,496,816	\$87,123,380
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	-	-	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$88,494,334	\$90,824,231	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$87,123,380	\$89,496,816	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$1,370,954	\$1,327,415	
Administrative Component	\$15,849,357	\$17,206,137	\$16,706,843
Program Component	\$115,738,320	\$123,391,587	\$122,712,202
Capital Component	\$20,038,291	\$21,181,474	\$19,986,717

\* The Contingency Budget information displayed above has been calculated in total, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. Budget items excluded from the calculation include equipment expenditures and other non-contingent expenses. The actual appropriations under a contingency budget, should this be necessary, would be determined by the Board of Education and may include additional contingent expenditures if funding sources other than additional tax levy amounts are identified.

\*\*Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:

Description	Amount
Bus purchases	\$3,600,000
Capital Project	\$26,600,000
Land Purchase	\$275,000

## Basic STAR Benefit Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Benefit Savings based upon the standard \$30,000 exemption authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Estimated Basic STAR Benefit Savings

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year

\$569

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, Monroe County, New York, will be held at the Transportation and Operations Center in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Transportation and Operations Center, 1133 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

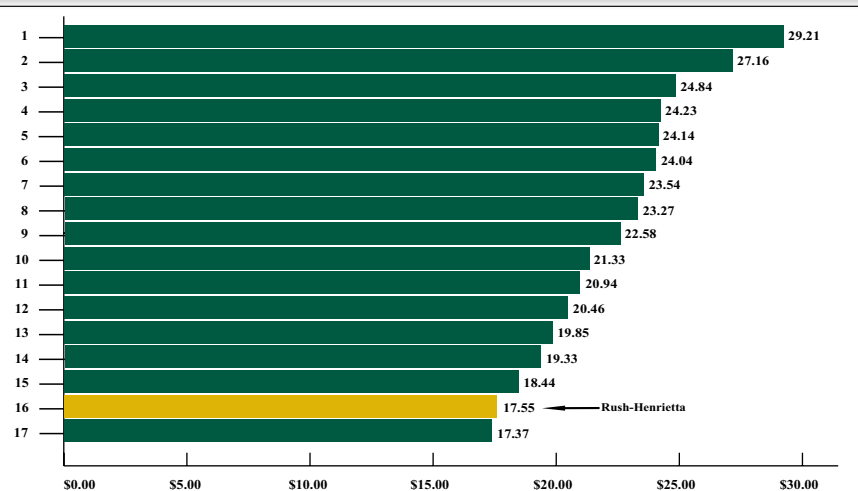
If you are a United States citizen, will be at least 18 years old by May 16, 2023, and have been a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote, you may vote.

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

## Monroe County School District Comparison\*

Tax rates are a means of comparing taxes between districts. 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 will have one of the lowest tax rates in the county.

\* Data from "2023 Facts and Figures" published by the Monroe County School Boards Association





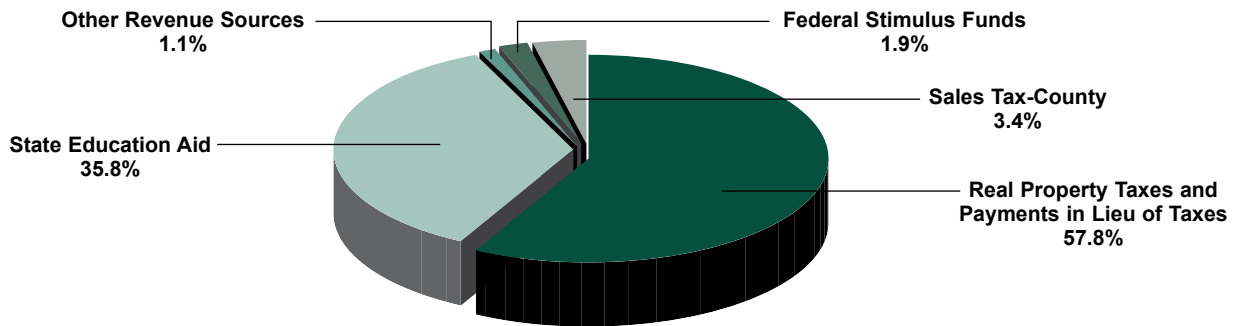


# Rush-Henrietta Central School District Budget Proposal

## 2023-2024 Projected Revenue Statement

Revenue Source	2022-2023	2023-2024	+/- Change	Inc. (Dec) %	% of Budget
State Education Aid	\$48,937,771	\$57,966,097	9,028,326	18.4%	35.8%
Real Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Taxes	91,123,380	93,496,816	2,373,436	2.6%	57.8%
Sales Tax - County	5,000,000	5,440,000	440,000	8.8%	3.4%
Other Revenue Sources	1,564,817	1,776,285	211,468	13.5%	1.1%
Fund Balance and Reserves	900,000	0	-900,000	-100.0%	0.0%
Federal Stimulus Funds	4,100,000	3,100,000	-1,000,000	-24.4%	1.9%
<b>Revenue - Grand Total</b>	<b>\$151,625,968</b>	<b>\$161,779,198</b>	<b>\$10,153,230</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



## 2023-2024 Proposed Expenditures

There are five expenditure categories in the 2023-2024 budget proposal, as outlined below, that support educational programs and school district operations.

**Instruction: 52.6%** — The instructional program is the largest category in the budget and is the focal point of our educational system. All services that provide, or directly affect, instruction to students are budgeted in this area. The following are included in this category: regular school program, special education, summer school and support services [school libraries, health, psychological and social work services, curriculum coordination and supervision, curriculum development, research and evaluation], BOCES instructional programs, student activities [interscholastic sports, intramurals, co-curricular activities] and required tuition payments for Rush-Henrietta students attending approved private and public school programs.

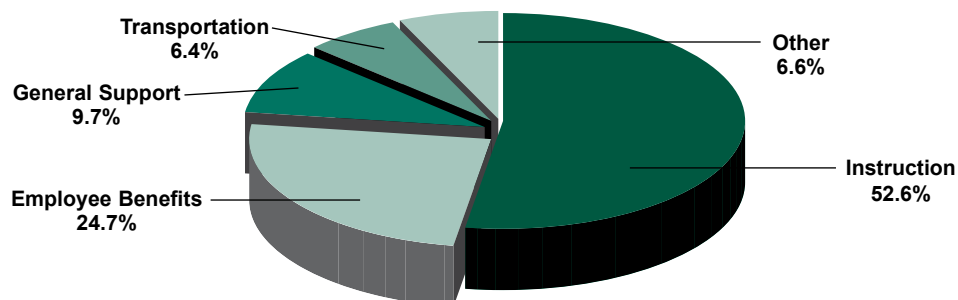
**General Support: 9.7%** — This part of the budget covers the areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of all district grounds and facilities, printing, mailing, district meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

**Transportation: 6.4%** — Includes bus transportation for more than 6,000 students to district, charter, parochial and private schools; BOCES centers for vocational and special education programs; field trips and athletic team trips.

**Employee Benefits: 24.7%** — Included in the employee benefits category are health insurance, retirement, social security, and the risk fund which includes unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance, disability and life insurance.

**Other: 6.6%** — A small portion of the budget is for other expenditures that include capital funding (buildings and grounds reconstruction, repairs, and improvements to all district buildings and grounds), and community services.

### EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET





# Rush-Henrietta Central Sch

## 2023-2024 Component Budget

### Administrative Component: 10.6% 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	2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)
Board of Education	149,189	153,619	4,430
Central Administration	315,999	411,761	95,762
Finance	797,267	853,716	56,449
Legal Services	239,753	240,000	247
Personnel	715,780	705,054	(10,726)
Public Information	279,428	242,020	(37,408)
Other Central Services	1,495,230	1,698,853	203,623
Other Special Items	1,291,961	1,379,828	87,867
Curriculum Development & Sup.	2,293,768	2,791,682	497,914
Supervision-Regular School	3,268,335	3,301,469	33,134
Supervision-Special School	190,493	265,039	74,546
Research, Evaluation & Planning	496,220	509,183	12,963
Employee Benefits	4,315,934	4,653,913	337,979
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$15,849,357</b>	<b>\$17,206,137</b>	<b>\$1,356,780</b>

### Program Component: 76.3% of Budget

The Program Component provides funding for the instruction of and educational support services for the District's students. Programs are offered in four (4) primary buildings, two (2) intermediate buildings, two (2) junior high schools, and one (1) high school. Funds are also included in this component for transporting students.

Function or Account	2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)
Instruction	72,393,080	77,667,518	5,274,438
In-Service Training	344,240	515,815	171,575
District Transportation	7,617,511	8,131,995	514,484
Garage Building	203,099	215,938	12,839
BOCES/Contract Transportation	1,929,281	1,978,452	49,171
Community Services	282,162	324,158	41,996
Employee Benefits	31,403,947	33,107,711	1,703,764
Other Transfers	1,565,000	1,450,000	(115,000)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$115,738,320</b>	<b>\$123,391,587</b>	<b>\$7,653,267</b>

### Capital Component: 13.1% of Budget

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

Function or Account	2022-2023	2023-2024	Increase/(Decrease)
Operation of Plant	5,762,900	6,191,504	428,604
Maintenance of Plant	3,086,790	3,291,111	204,321
Refund of Taxes	220,586	236,000	15,414
Other Special Items	290,631	302,256	11,625
Employee Benefits	2,259,968	2,267,076	7,108
Transfer to Capital	6,802,010	7,600,408	798,398
Debt Service	1,615,406	1,293,119	(322,287)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$20,038,291</b>	<b>\$21,181,474</b>	<b>\$1,143,183</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$151,625,968</b>	<b>\$161,779,198</b>	<b>\$10,153,230</b>



# School District Budget Proposal

## 2023-2024 Proposed Expenditures

### Instruction: 52.6% of Budget

	2022-2023	2023-2024	% Change
Salaries	56,205,131	59,273,319	5.5%
Equipment	272,508	292,129	7.2%
Supplies & Materials	1,455,900	1,561,223	7.2%
Textbooks & Software	606,437	842,157	38.9%
Contractual Expenses	1,873,243	2,409,686	28.6%
BOCES	15,524,518	17,477,343	12.6%
Tuition	3,048,399	3,194,850	4.8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>78,986,136</b>	<b>85,050,707</b>	<b>7.7%</b>

### General Support: 9.7% of Budget

	2022-2023	2023-2024	% Change
Salaries	5,825,140	5,867,485	0.7%
Equipment	461,528	494,757	7.2%
Supplies & Materials	1,064,046	1,167,058	9.7%
Contractual Expenses	4,735,326	5,420,668	14.5%
BOCES	2,559,474	2,755,754	7.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,645,514</b>	<b>15,705,722</b>	<b>7.2%</b>

### Transportation: 6.4% of Budget

	2022-2023	2023-2024	% Change
Salaries	5,583,539	5,792,057	3.7%
Equipment, Supplies & Materials, Contracts	2,237,071	2,555,876	14.3%
BOCES, Public, Contract Transportation	1,929,281	1,978,452	2.5%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,749,891</b>	<b>10,326,385</b>	<b>5.9%</b>

### Employee Benefits: 24.7% of Budget

	2022-2023	2023-2024	% Change
Social Security	5,107,562	5,347,527	4.7%
Retirement	7,835,238	7,859,028	0.3%
Insurance	25,037,049	26,822,145	7.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37,979,849</b>	<b>40,028,700</b>	<b>5.4%</b>

### Other: 6.6% of Budget

	2022-2023	2023-2024	% Change
Bus Purchase & Capital Transfers	6,802,010	7,600,408	11.7%
Capital repairs at all district grounds and facilities such as fields, roofs, boilers, lighting, flooring, HVAC, bus purchases, etc.			
Community Service	282,162	324,158	14.9%
Transfer to Special Education Extended School Year	600,000	600,000	0.0%
Transfer to State Schools (Blind & Deaf)	525,000	550,000	4.8%
Transfer to School Food Services	440,000	300,000	-31.8%
Debt Service	1,615,406	1,293,118	-20.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,264,578</b>	<b>10,667,684</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>151,625,968</b>	<b>161,779,198</b>	<b>6.7%</b>

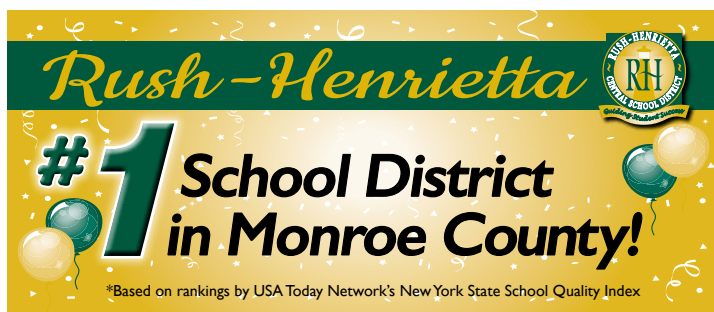


The mission of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District is to prepare every student for responsible citizenship, life-long learning, and college or career success.

## Celebrating Student Achievement

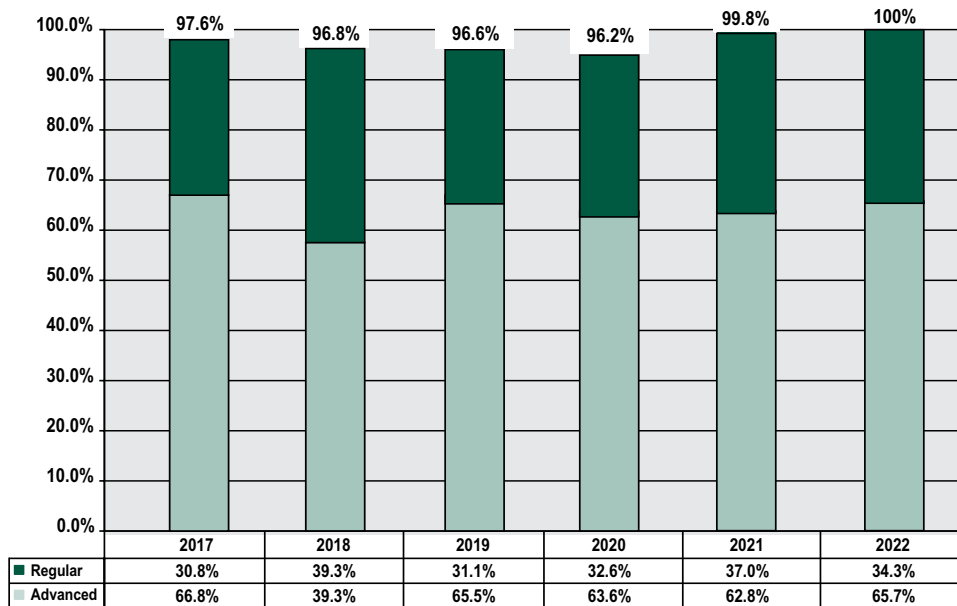
### Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement courses are offered in many academic areas. In Rush-Henrietta, 379 students took 685 AP exams last spring; 438 scored at a "3" or higher. That means 67 percent of students earned a 3 or better on their exam. Exams are graded on scores of 1 to 5; scores of 3 and above generally are accepted for college credit. We continue to encourage our students to take advantage of these Advanced Placement offerings.



Rush-Henrietta continues to challenge its students to take more rigorous courses in an effort to increase their college readiness. For example, Rush-Henrietta requires all eighth graders to take Earth Science, a class typically taught elsewhere in ninth grade. This gives students the opportunity to take an extra year of science to prepare for college. Rush-Henrietta also offers more challenging math courses.

### Percent of Graduates Receiving Regents Diplomas 2017-2022



### 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 2022-2023 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 School Accountability, located in the Parker Administration Building at 2034 Lehigh Station Road. To make an appointment to review these documents during regular business hours, please call 359-5042.



## *On May 16, 2023, 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 2023-2024 in the total amount of \$161,779,198 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

### **Proposition 2**

#### **BUS EXPENDITURES**

**Shall the following proposition be adopted?**

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of up to \$3,600,000 to be funded from the 2016 Bus Purchase Reserve, the balance in existing Capital Fund bus purchase funds, and the General Fund Transfer for the purchase and replacement of vehicles for the transportation of district students.

### **Proposition 3**

#### **2023 CAPITAL 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 \$26,600,000 to be funded from undesignated balances in the Capital Fund and from the 2020 and 2022 Capital Reserve Funds for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the school facilities and districtwide systems including, without limitation, the Burger, Crane, Fyle, Leary, Roth, Sherman, Sperry, Vollmer, Webster, and Winslow schools; the Parker Administration Building; the John R. "Jack" Gaffney West Henrietta Education Building; the TOC; the Good Shepherd buildings including razing of the old parish office and garage; such projects to include, without limitation, roof replacements; boiler replacements; sidewalk, parking lot, and bus loop replacement; classroom renovations including carpet, flooring, ceiling and lighting replacement; HVAC upgrades; ADA compliance; health, safety, and security projects including a High School secure vestibule and districtwide exterior door electronic access upgrades; High School pool and locker room renovations; door and window replacement; freezer/cooler replacement and renovation; clock system upgrades; fire alarm system upgrades; computer and media-related cabling; building exterior and interior upgrades and repairs; telephone and public address systems; lavatory renovations and installation; purchase of equipment; water heater replacements; emergency generators; food service equipment replacement; auditorium refurbishment; Good Shepherd to Webster move costs including Webster building renovations and new playground; office renovations; site improvements; electronic building security systems and security cameras.

### **Proposition 4**

#### **PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY**

#### **1871 LEHIGH STATION ROAD**

**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 \$275,000, to be funded by a General Fund Transfer to Capital account, for the purchase of property, located at 1871 Lehigh Station Road, consisting of approximately 4.7 acres adjacent to the Senior High School, to be potentially developed to enhance the Senior High School facility and parking; with future intent to raze the existing house and barn on the property.

**Propositions 2, 3 and 4 will NOT affect the tax rate.**



## Information Regarding Propositions 3 and 4

An informational mailer with further details regarding these propositions was sent to district residents in April, and may be found online at [www.rhnet.org/budget23](http://www.rhnet.org/budget23).



*Rendering of the larger, more secure main entrance to the Senior High School.*

### Proposition 3: 2023 Capital Expenditures

A \$26.6 million capital project is being proposed to address a number of building repairs and renovations needed to maintain our aging infrastructure as well as provide some important security enhancements.

**All of the funding is coming from existing savings set aside to maintain our buildings, so there is no borrowing and no increase in the tax levy.** These renovations bring much needed updates and will enable our students to enjoy these facilities for many more years.

Significant repairs are needed to extend the life of the high school pool. The pool basin is original from when the school was built in 1966, and repairs are needed to fix leaks and cracks. These repairs include replacing pool tiles which provides an opportunity for other improvements, including updating the spectator area and locker rooms, and new pool lighting.



*Significant repairs will extend the life of the high school pool.*

Most of our schools were built in the 1960s or earlier, and repairs or upgrades to lighting and HVAC systems are needed. In addition, refreshing classroom spaces allows us to continue providing a vibrant, healthy learning space for our students.

Safety remains a top district priority, and several security enhancements are included in the proposal.

A more welcoming and secure main entrance is proposed for the high school. Not only will a double set of locked doors provide greater security, but the foyer will be larger to accommodate students who are often waiting outside for transfer buses to private/parochial schools or BOCES vocational programs, or gathering for sports or other activities. In addition, electronic access will be

added to all exterior school doors in the district, allowing staff to use their badges to enter and alerts to be sent to the main office if any door is propped open.

The property at 1871 Lehigh Station Road includes 4.7 acres adjacent to the east parking lot of the Senior High School. This is a unique opportunity to add space at our landlocked high school. Although there are no immediate plans for this parcel, it may allow future projects to increase parking, alter traffic flow, or add a small sports field. The \$275,000 proposition is just for the purchase of the property; its use will be determined at a later time. As with the capital project, **the money for this land purchase would come from existing savings and would not affect the tax rate.**



Since January, the Board of Education and superintendent 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 our superintendent, Dr. Mullen, will be glad to answer questions on the district website at [www.rhnet.org/budgettalk](http://www.rhnet.org/budgettalk). If you have a question that isn't addressed below, or have questions about this year's voting process, ask by visiting the website at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) and clicking the Contact Us button. We look forward to hearing from community members.

Or, contact Andy Whitmore, assistant superintendent  
for school finance and operations,  
at 359-5037 or [awhitmore@rhnet.org](mailto:awhitmore@rhnet.org).



## *Rush-Henrietta Central School District*

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

### **2022-2023 Board of Education**

Mrs. Diane E. McBride, President  
Mr. Scott M. Adair, Vice President  
Mrs. Mai Adbullah  
Mrs. Suzanne Bennett  
Mrs. Jennifer M. Laird  
Mr. Douglas J. Rivers  
Mrs. Rachel Sherman

### **Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Barbara A. Mullen

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Henrietta, NY  
Permit No. 2

**VOTE MAY 16**

### **Voter Eligibility**

- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years old by May 16, 2023.
- 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 and ASL Interpreter**

Absentee ballots are available to eligible residents of the district who are unable to vote in person on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 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, call Cheryl Castronovo, district clerk, at 359-5010. You also may call or email Mrs. Castronovo at ccastronovo@rhnet.org by May 12 to request an ASL interpreter at the polling site.

### **2023-2024 Proposed Budget:**

#### **Striving for a Fiscally Responsible,**

#### **Equitable, Educationally Sound Budget**

- Preserves instructional programs and student services.
- Maintains benefits of small-class-size initiative.
- True value tax rate among lowest in the county.
- Developed with equity in mind.
- Uses federal funding to provide learning-loss resources and social-emotional support to students.

**All Voting Will Be At The  
Transportation and Operations Center  
1133 Lehigh Station Road**



## **RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**

### **LOCATION**

**Transportation Center  
1133 Lehigh Station Road  
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Voters will elect two members to  
the Board of Education  
and vote on four propositions:**

**PROPOSITION NO. 1  
BUDGET PROPOSITION  
\$161,779,198**

**PROPOSITION NO. 2  
BUS EXPENDITURES**

**PROPOSITION NO. 3  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

**PROPOSITION NO. 4  
PURCHASE OF  
REAL PROPERTY**

**Propositions 2, 3 and 4 will NOT  
affect the tax rate.**

Visit our district website ([www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/rhschools](https://facebook.com/rhschools))