



# Superintendent's Bulletin

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## Dear RCSD Community Member,

I hope everyone had a restful February break. I want to thank those of you who were able to join us at the Board of Education meeting on February 9 where I presented the Superintendent's Recommended Budget for 2016-17. The Superintendent's Recommended Budget assumes no cuts in programs with a 1% tax increase. I want to remind RCSD parents and guardians that by law the School District's budget must be approved by the Rye City voters each and every year. Budget discussions will continue throughout the spring, culminating in a budget vote on Tuesday, May 17. Please read more about my Recommended Budget below.

I am pleased to report that we have received testing dates from the State, so we should be able to finalize our District calendar for the 2016-17 school year shortly. We will send the calendar to parents via SchoolMessenger and will post it on the home page of the District's website as soon as it's available.

Sincerely,

Frank Alvarez

## Superintendent's Recommended Budget for 2016-2017

*By Superintendent Frank Alvarez*

At the February 9 Board of Education meeting, I presented my recommended budget for the 2016-17 school year. Please click [here](#) to see the complete presentation online. I am pleased to announce we are able to fulfill our promise to the Rye community made during last year's budget override. The recommended budget remains within the allowable tax cap and has no cuts to personnel or to the current program.

While we are seeing increased enrollment in the Middle School, we were able to offset these gains by moving personnel from our elementary schools, which are

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experiencing a slight dip. My 2016-17 Recommended Budget includes more math and foreign language teacher time at the High School level and appropriates funding for a new Project Lead the Way engineering teacher for third year students. The budget continues support for the Literacy Initiative reading and writing program, which now extends to the Middle School.

This year's tax cap levy of 1.00% is far lower than anyone could have anticipated. The term 2% tax cap is a bit of a misnomer. It's actually a "2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower" tax cap, but that's a mouthful. This year's allowable tax increase is .12% in accordance with the rate of inflation. As a point of reference, last year it was 1.62% (before the override). Employee healthcare and state-mandated program cost increases continue to far outstrip our tax revenues.

The District will once again dip into the fund reserves to make up the shortfall between revenues and expenditures. My recommended budget uses \$2.5 million in reserves to fill the budget gap. Unfortunately, unless we see major tax relief or funding changes from Albany, we may be looking at another tax cap override far sooner than any of us had anticipated.

Please consider coming to a future Board of Education meeting and play a part in your school district.

## **Midland's Garbage Reduction Program**

Kudos to Midland School on its new cafeteria garbage reduction program. After a presentation by the non-profit recycling organization *We Future Cycle*, students now sort their lunch garbage, separating trash from compostable and recyclable materials. The parent-driven pilot program kicked off the first week in February, and in the first day alone resulted in a reduction from 170 pounds to 4.5 pounds of garbage. A big thank you to parents Emily Keenan and Cali Gibbs for spearheading the initiative and to the Midland students, administration and custodial staff for actively embracing the program. ■



*Midland Assistant Principal Joanna Napolitano, Parents Cali Gibbs and Emily Keenan and Principal Jim Boylan show off one day's worth of cafeteria garbage under the new program*



*Lisa-Marie DiRusso  
and Principal Ann Edwards  
in the STEP Room*

## **STEP Program**

At the January 26th Board of Education Meeting, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services Julia Chung and Middle School Principal Ann Edwards announced the creation of the new Student Transitional Educational Program (STEP) for Middle School students with disabilities. The program seeks to serve non-Regents bound students who require education until 21 years of age by providing functional academics and life skills. The goal of the program is to educate students within the community of Rye to support their independence and transition to adulthood. STEP kicks off the second semester of this year. The Science Research Associates-based pilot program is led by Special Education teacher Lisa-Marie DiRusso. ■

## **Junior Fusine Govaert Named All-American Athlete**

RHS Field Hockey player Fusine Govaert has been named to the third 2015 Harrow Sports/NFHCA High School All-American Team. To be named an All-American Athlete is an incredible distinction. The award goes to students selected by coaches as the best players in the country in their particular sport. Congratulations to Fusine! ■



*All-American Athlete Fusine Govaert  
in action versus Harrison*



*Seniors Lauren Dempsey and Ryan  
Anderson with Mrs. Taylor and the  
framed US flag*

## **Adopt A US Soldier Club Presents Flag to RHS**

At the High School Awards assembly on February 12, Rye High School Seniors Lauren Dempsey and Ryan Anderson, two officers in the school's Adopt A US Soldier Club, presented Principal Patricia Taylor with a very special gift: a United States flag that flew over Tactical Base Dwyer in Helmand Province in Afghanistan. The framed flag, certificate and plaque were given in appreciation of the club's annual drive which sends snacks, clothing and sporting goods to Rye High School graduates serving in the military overseas and domestically. The gift came courtesy of Rye High School graduate Private Daniel Acevedo (class of 2010). Mrs. Taylor intends to display the flag outside of the Media Center. ■

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**February 26 & 27**  
**Parsons Street Players**  
**Production of**  
**"Shrek The Musical"**  
**February 26, 7:30 p.m.**  
**February 27, 2:00 p.m.**  
**and 7:30 p.m.**

**March 8**  
**Board of Education**  
**Meeting**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**RMS**  
**Multipurpose Room**

**March 21-28**  
**Spring Recess**  
**(Schools Closed)**

**March 29**  
**Board of Education**  
**Meeting/**  
**Open Topics Forum**  
**7:30 p.m. RMS**  
**Multipurpose Room**