April 14, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

On May 17, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Red Jacket High School auditorium foyer, our community will have the opportunity to vote on the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District’s operational budget. We are pleased to share with you that the State approved a 2016-2017 budget that includes $253,000 in GEA aid, which is the remaining amount owed to us from the $1.1 MILLION in State Aid that was taken away from Red Jacket going into the 2009-2010 school year. Although the GEA aid has been fully restored, there has been a cost to our children and programs from these reductions. Now, hopefully, the State will consider an equitable distribution of aid and provide full Foundation Aid to upstate public schools moving forward – advocacy is important.

A 2016-2017 Budget of $17,114,000 will allow the District to maintain the restorations we made over the past three years (Technology Teacher, English Teacher, Social Studies Teacher, two support staff persons, modified sports, Special Education Teacher, Coordinator of Special Services [CPSE/CSE Chairperson], and Business Management) and it will allow us to increase UPK opportunities, create a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) position to increase Athletic Director time and assist with student discipline, and add a part-time School Resource Officer shared with BOCES.

For the 2016-2017 school year, we are asking our community to support a 0.0% levy increase. Yes, you read that correctly, a ZERO percent levy increase!

If our operational budget is voted down and we go to a contingent budget, we will need to reduce the budget by $51,566 and remove non-state aided equipment, school supplies, and charge a fee to the community for use of District facilities. We would also be required to reduce our Business Management and Coordinator of Special Services in the upcoming school year.

Please remind your friends, neighbors, and community family members to come out and vote on the school budget on May 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If at least one parent or guardian from each household voted on May 17th, we would have approximately 900 voters! Please, vote and encourage voting on Tuesday, May 17th.

Not going to be in town? Not a problem. Contact Kim Brown in District Office at 289-3964 or email her at Kim.Brown@redjacket.org and request an absentee ballot.

For more information on the Operational Budget or to learn more about how Red Jacket has demonstrated fiscal responsibility, please visit our website at www.redjacket.org

I would like to thank all of our students, parents, and community members for working in partnership to support quality education and promoting and believing in the integrity of our mission.

With Red Jacket PRIDE,

Charlene Dehn
Superintendent of Schools

Tim Burns
Business Manager

Mission

We will challenge all learners and work in partnership with students, parents and community to achieve high standards.