

May 15, 2018 Budget Vote

For the past two years, the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District's community has supported a 0% tax levy increase. Red Jacket has **taken advantage of State Aid incentives** set aside for schools to address capital project and school safety needs and the District has **taken advantage of energy performance project incentives**, which has **saved the District thousands** in utility costs. Our technology and K-12 Chromebook initiative has not only increased opportunities and engagement for all our students, but it has provided **significant cost savings** from the mobile lap top and net book carts of the past. Through on-line learning, we have been able to increase college-level and elective course offerings for students at **little to no cost**.

The District has worked strategically within our schools and by partnering with local businesses to create meaningful career education opportunities for our students at **no additional cost** to the District. For example, students have been able to take advantage of internship opportunities at Fresh Ayr Farm Market, Clifton Springs Hospital, and now at Ruggles World of Auto Body. Our students can also gain technology experience through our school's technology help desk where students trouble shoot and repair technology throughout the District. We have also created the Red Jacket Flying Club where students can learn to fly, get their private pilot certificate and pursue the field of aviation - **at no cost to the District**. We are working with students to identify their goals and we are supporting and empowering them to achieve those goals. What better way to learn and prepare students for their future, than by experiencing and by doing?

Our school has been in the midst of positive change – from changing mindsets to understand we serve all our students; we work for them! It is our responsibility to work with students to meet their needs and help them identify and achieve their goals. We need to take them from where they are intellectually, socially, and emotionally, to the path where they ultimately want to be. We have the power and responsibility to inspire so students aspire to achieve their goals. We expect instruction to be designed so that the teacher, themselves, would want their own children to experience and benefit from it. Students are at the center of the decisions we make at Red Jacket. The Board of Education, Superintendent, leadership team and all the caring, dedicated people within our school and community, are committed to working together to bring our school's mission, vision, core beliefs and values to life every day, with every one, all the time.

The Manchester-Shortsville Central School District is committed to providing its students with a world class education while **maintaining a stronghold on fiscal responsibility**. Even though Red Jacket has more students than some of our other small public schools across the region, we have the **second lowest school budget**. Remarkably, **Red Jacket has had a 0% tax levy increase in two out of the past three years and a 0% tax levy three times in the past six years!**

The Manchester-Shortsville Central School District is asking the community to vote on a **1.5% tax levy increase on May 15, 2018**. Although the District's tax cap is 4.09%, **Red Jacket has always remained under the tax cap**. A 1.5% increase on the levy is \$109,795. What this means to a homeowner with basic star exemption (whose home is valued at \$100,000), is an annual increase of approximately \$28.00 per year based on the 2017-2018 District property assessments. This amount is about the cost of one sheet pizza or about 7 cents a day.

The District is on a five-year annual bus replacement schedule **to take advantage of the safety and financial benefits** it affords our students and District. **The State provides Red Jacket with 90% Aid back on bus purchases!** The five year bumper to bumper warranty on new buses places students in newer, safer buses, **decreases maintenance costs** associated with older buses and allows Red Jacket to **take advantage of the higher auction value** when it is time to sell the buses. On **May 15th**, voters will have the opportunity to vote on the Bus Purchase Reserve Proposition and one Board of Education seat vacancy.

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

Please remind friends, neighbors and community members to come out and vote on the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District's budget on May 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Red Jacket Auditorium Foyer.

With Red Jacket PRIDE,

Charlene Dehn

Superintendent of Schools