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## Rush-Henrietta cuts budget ask by \$1.3M

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Rush-Henrietta school officials have cut \$1.3 million from a failed budget proposal in an attempt to gain more support when the spending plan goes up for a revote next month.

The original budget proposal was stifled by low voter turnout and misinformation on social media. It failed by just 15 votes.

Community members will have a chance to vote on a revised budget June 18.

At a school board meeting Tuesday, Superintendent Barbara Mullen said her administration looked for ways to trim the budget without staffing cuts or severe impact to classrooms.

The revised budget would save \$1.3 million by:

Cutting a proposed administrative position for a recruitment coordinator.

Cutting two proposed administrative support positions for a clerical staff member and a technology teachers assistant. Using a grant to fund special education increases. Reducing the amount of building aid transferred to the capital fund to support future projects.

'Every single adult in this district ... they impact our learners. There is not one disposable staff member here,' Mullen said. 'We wanted to be very thoughtful if we were going to be cutting (full time employee positions) that they were as far away from the classroom as we could consider.'

On average, the revised budget would increase the tax rate 1.25%, down from the 1.99% increase proposed through the original budget.

The original budget vote failed, in part, because of social media discussions that suggested the superintendent would be getting an 83% raise next year. Those rumors are false; the sharp increase in that budget line came about after another administrator's salary was moved there in a bookkeeping change.

Mullen's salary will increase 2.75% next year. The revised budget, available on the district's website, more carefully delineates the salaries included in that section.

'We have to be committed to having hard, respectful, honest, fact-filled conversations about what our priorities are and what our shared vision for the next academic generation is,' Mullen said Tuesday.

If the June 18 vote again fails, the district will be forced to adopt a contingency budget, which restricts almost any year-over-year increase. That hasn't happened in Monroe County since West Irondequoit in 2014.

*Includes reporting by Justin Murphy.*

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