



North Rose-Wolcott CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

May 21, 2024

12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
NRW High School
11631 Salter-Colvin Road
Wolcott, NY 14590



Message from the Board of Education

Dear Fellow Community Members,

This newsletter contains information pertaining to the vote on May 21 when NRWCS voters will be asked to approve the 2024-2025 school budget proposal, the school bus purchase expenditure, the transfer of monies to the Repair Reserve, elect members to the Board of Education, and support the collection requests of the Rose and Wolcott public libraries.

The proposed budget amount presented in Proposition #1 is the culmination of months of careful and prudent preparation. It supports the District's adopted Strategic Action Plan by providing for the educational, physical, emotional, health and safety needs of students, appropriate staffing needs and training essentials, New York State and Federal requirement and mandate compliance, and the diligent management of the District's buildings and grounds. With anticipated revenues from State and Federal aid, multiple grant awards, Wayne County Sales Tax and BOCES reimbursements, and other smaller sources, significant consideration was given to the subsequent tax impact on local residents before the School Board adopted the final proposed budget amount to present to voters for approval.

School Bus Proposition #2 follows an ongoing District plan to replace our buses on a regular basis. This saves money on repairs through warranty coverage, meets the most current safety standards, and gives us a substantially better trade-in value and additional transportation aid resulting from cash payments.

Proposition #3 is for financial support of the Rose and Wolcott libraries. If approved, the school district collects this money, then transfers it to the libraries. The school district has no input into the amounts requested and receives no financial benefits.

Proposition #4 authorizes money to be transferred from the Liability Reserve, where there is a surplus, to the Repair Reserve for future building improvement projects.

You will also be electing two members to sit on the School Board for five-year terms beginning July 1, 2024.

The School Board thanks you for your continued support of our children's education, that they may become successful adults and productive community members.

Yours truly,
Lucinda Collier
Board of Education President



Message From the Superintendent

Dear School Community,

As our May 21 budget vote approaches, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school district. We have worked diligently over the last several months to develop a fiscally sound spending plan proposal for the 2024-2025 school year. This work is time-consuming, but necessary given these ever-changing times.

This budget proposal accounts for rising costs and preserves our current programming while minimizing the financial impact to our taxpayers. It enables us to continue to make gains as a district by enhancing our offerings while closing learning gaps.

These are just a few examples of the ways this budget proposal supports the needs of our students:

- the creation of a Computer and Digital Fluency Teacher on Special Assignment;
- the continuation of our expanded 3PK program to benefit our youngest learners;
- the implementation of a distance learning model for advanced classes;
- and the continuation of summer credit-bearing and credit recovery offerings for our NRW students.

We are pleased to continue our track record of offering these high-quality educational programs to our community in a cost-effective manner. Collectively, we have been able to achieve great things. Thank you for your efforts in ensuring we continue to bring our students the very best.

Respectfully,
Michael Pullen
Superintendent of Schools



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2024-2025 Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *								
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 34,710,447	\$ 35,489,766	\$ 35,254,419								
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$ 779,319	\$ 543,972								
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.25 %	1.57%								
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%									
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 10,668,559	\$ 11,235,105									
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, If Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0									
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0									
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0									
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 10,668,559	\$ 11,235,105	\$ 10,668,559								
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0									
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 10,826,862	\$ 11,240,587									
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 10,668,559	\$ 11,235,105									
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 158,303	\$ 5,482									
Administrative Component	\$ 4,242,347	\$ 4,317,214	\$ 4,262,317								
Program Component	\$ 24,754,209	\$ 26,113,008	\$ 26,033,508								
Capital Component	\$ 5,713,891	\$ 5,059,544	\$ 4,958,594								
*Should the proposed budget be defeated, and the above contingency budget be adopted, the initial cuts as required by law would be eliminating certain equipment and certain community use of facilities. Additional cuts may be required to conform to spending caps which would come from programs as determined by the Board of Education at the time of adoption											
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)											
<table><tr><th>Description</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>Purchase of Buses</td><td>\$ 810,026</td></tr><tr><td>Annual Levy for Wolcott Library and Rose Free Library</td><td>\$ 236,100</td></tr><tr><td>Fund New Repair Reserve</td><td>\$ 275,000</td></tr></table>				Description	Amount	Purchase of Buses	\$ 810,026	Annual Levy for Wolcott Library and Rose Free Library	\$ 236,100	Fund New Repair Reserve	\$ 275,000
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Purchase of Buses	\$ 810,026										
Annual Levy for Wolcott Library and Rose Free Library	\$ 236,100										
Fund New Repair Reserve	\$ 275,000										

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 394

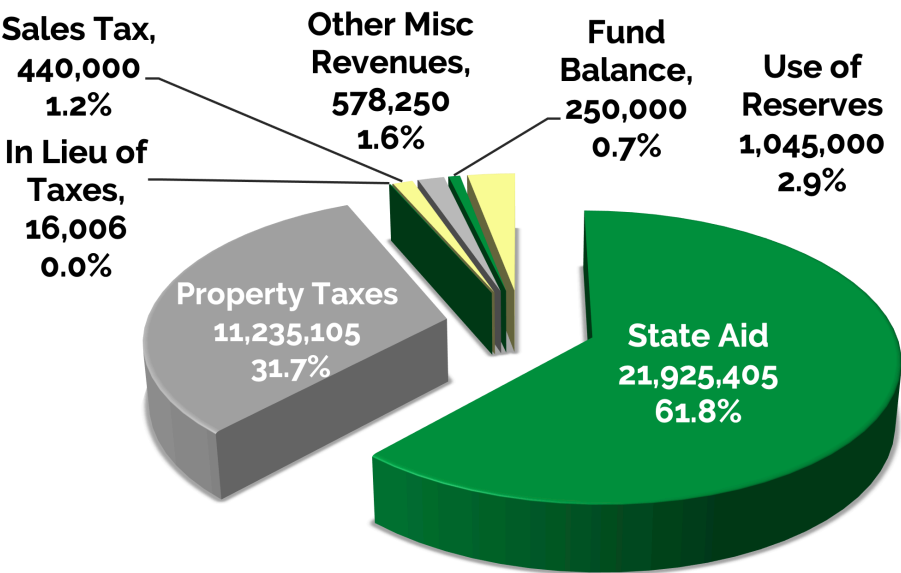
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the North Rose-Wolcott school district, Wayne County, New York, will be held at NRW High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the NRW High School, located at 11631 Salter-Colvin Road, Wolcott, NY at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



Revenue Sources

Revenue Category	Current Budget 2023-24	Proposed Spending Plan 2024-25	Dollar Change	Percent Change
State Aid	\$22,367,632	\$21,925,405	(\$442,227)	-1.98%
Property Taxes	\$10,668,559	\$11,235,105	\$566,546	5.31%
In Lieu of Taxes	\$16,006	\$16,006	\$0	0.00%
Sales Tax	\$440,000	\$440,000	\$0	0.00%
Other Misc Revenues	\$448,250	\$578,250	\$130,000	29.00%
Fund Balance	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	66.67%
Use of Reserves	\$620,000	\$1,045,000	\$425,000	68.55%
Total Budget	\$34,710,447	\$35,489,766	\$779,319	2.25%



Revenues
by Category

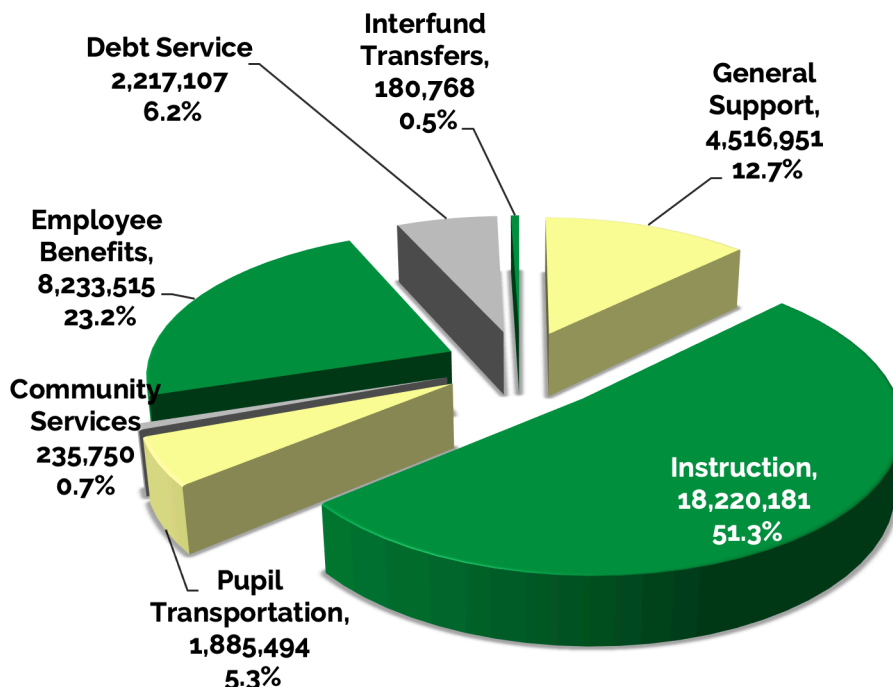


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Planned Expenditures

Expenditure Category	Current Budget 2023-24	Proposed Spending Plan 2024-25	Dollar Change	Percent Change
General Support				
Board of Education	\$56,790	\$58,831	\$2,041	3.59%
Central Administration	\$310,868	\$319,620	\$8,752	2.82%
Finance	\$628,779	\$647,750	\$18,971	3.02%
Staff - Legal, Personnel, Public Information	\$369,083	\$331,990	(\$37,093)	-10.05%
Central Services - Operations, Maintenance, Data Processing	\$2,566,517	\$2,711,873	\$145,355	5.66%
Special Items - Insurance, Dues, BOCES Administration, etc.	\$422,277	\$446,888	\$24,611	5.83%
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$4,354,314	\$4,516,951	\$162,637	3.74%
Instruction				
Admin & Improvement - Curriculum, Supervision, In-Service Trng	\$1,313,442	\$1,326,955	\$13,513	1.03%
Teaching - Regular Ed, Special Ed, Occ. Ed, Special Schools	\$12,763,009	\$13,909,323	\$1,146,314	8.98%
Instructional Media - Library, Computer Assisted Instruction	\$1,579,981	\$1,425,588	(\$154,393)	-9.77%
Pupil Services - Guidance, Health Svcs, Psychologists, Co-curricular, Athletics	\$1,453,261	\$1,558,315	\$105,054	7.23%
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$17,109,693	\$18,220,181	\$1,110,488	6.49%
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$1,838,294	\$1,885,494	\$47,201	2.57%
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$230,240	\$235,750	\$5,510	2.39%
Undistributed				
Employee Benefits	\$7,819,117	\$8,233,515	\$414,398	5.30%
Debt Service	\$3,081,500	\$2,217,107	(\$864,393)	-28.05%
Interfund Transfers	\$277,290	\$180,768	(\$96,522)	-34.81%
TOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED	\$11,177,907	\$10,631,390	(\$546,517)	-4.89%
Total Budget	\$34,710,447	\$35,489,766	\$779,319	2.25%



Expenditures by Category



What does this proposal mean for the average NRW homeowner?

Your own tax increase depends upon three main factors:

1) Where you live;

2) Changes in property assessments and final equalization rates;

3) Your participation in STAR. Senior citizens may be eligible for a STAR reduction of approximately \$70,000 in taxable assessment, while non-senior homeowners may receive a reduction of approximately \$30,000 in taxable assessment. Businesses and rental properties are not eligible for STAR.

For a House Assessed at \$50,000	
Assessed Value	50,000.00
STAR Deduction	(30,000.00)
Net Assessment	20,000.00
Est. 2024-25 Tax Rate/\$1,000	14.13
2023-24 Tax Rate/\$1,000	14.64
Difference	0.49
Estimated tax change	\$9.87

For a House Assessed at \$100,000	
Assessed Value	100,000.00
STAR Deduction	(30,000.00)
Net Assessment	70,000.00
Est. 2024-25 Tax Rate/\$1,000	14.13
2023-24 Tax Rate/\$1,000	14.64
Difference	0.49
Estimated tax change	\$34.53

Student Athletes Recognized by Wayne County Supervisors

Congratulations to the three NRW student athletes who received proclamations at the March 19 Wayne County Board of Supervisors meeting for their athletic accomplishments during the winter sports season!

Recognized students include:

- Vivian Bishop (Alpine Ski), who placed 2nd in slalom and 4th in giant slalom at the Section V championship, then placed 2nd in slalom and 14th in giant slalom at the NYSPHSAA championships.
- Gwen Tompkins (Indoor Track), Section V champion in the 55-meter hurdles.
- Ashton Smith (swimming), Section V champion in the 100-meter butterfly.

Proposed Spending Plan as Components

The State Education Department requires school districts to categorize the budget into three parts:

Educational Program

Includes expenses for teaching regular and special schools, i.e. employee salaries, benefits and insurance, programs for students with disabilities, occupational education, in-service training, school library/audiovisual, attendance, guidance, health services, psychological/social work services, pupil personnel services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic athletics, student transportation services, recreation/youth programs, civic activities, transfers to school lunch, school store and special aid funds.

Capital

Includes expenses for the operation and maintenance of school buildings, school bus purchases, principal and interest payments for debt service, transfers to capital and debt service funds, property tax refunds, and employee benefits attributed to salaries included in these functions.

Administrative

Includes expenses for the Board of Education, central administration, instructional supervision, curriculum development, legal services, central data processing, printing, mailing and storage, and employee benefits attributed to salaries included in these functions.

Components	Current Budget 2023-2024	Proposed Spending Plan 2024-2025	% of Spending	Dollar +/-	Percent +/-
Educational Program	\$24,754,209	\$26,113,008	73.6%	\$1,358,799	5.49%
Capital	\$5,713,891	\$5,059,544	14.3%	(\$654,348)	-11.45%
Administrative	\$4,242,347	\$4,317,214	12.2%	\$74,867	1.76%
Total Budget	\$34,710,447	\$35,489,766	100.0%	\$779,319	2.25%



What's On The Ballot?

Proposition No. 1: 2024-2025 Budget

Shall the budget for the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, as presented by the Board of Education, in the amount of \$35,489,766 be approved and adopted, the required funds be appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law?

Proposition No. 2: Transportation Purchases and Expenditures

Shall the Board of Education of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District be authorized to purchase the following motor vehicles for use in student transportation: four (4) 64-passenger school buses and one (1) 30-passenger handicapped bus at an aggregate cost of \$810,026, less any trade-in value, with such sum to be paid from an expenditure of \$657,026 from the District's existing Capital Reserve Fund, established by the voters in May 2023, and the District further authorized to enter into one or more purchase contracts on terms satisfactory to the Board of Education, with respect to the vehicles hereby authorized to be acquired?

Proposition No. 3: Annual Library Appropriations

Shall the annual sum collected by the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District as required by New York State Education and Municipal laws for the 2024-25 operating budgets of the Wolcott Public Library and the Rose Free Library, as determined by both Library Boards of Trustees, be increased by \$13,000 to the total sum of \$236,100 annually to be allocated in the amounts of \$135,000 to the Wolcott Public Library and \$101,100 to the Rose Free Library?

Proposition No. 4: Authorization to Fund Repair Reserve

Shall the Board of Education of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District be authorized and directed to transfer two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the Liability Reserve established by the District June 30, 2003, to the Repair Reserve; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an initial deposit not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) shall be transferred from the 2023-24 unreserved, unappropriated general fund balance to the Repair Reserve Fund; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District and/or its designee(s) is hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary to effectuate the funding of the Repair Reserve, as described herein?

Voter Qualifications

Education Law, Section 2012

A person shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting or election of school district officers, and upon all other matters which may be brought before such meeting or election who is a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, and a legal resident within the district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the date of the election. Your legal address is where you are registered to vote and what is listed on your driver's license, federal income tax form or car registration. To vote, you do not have to own property. You also do not have to be a parent or have children in school.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballot applications are available at the District Office, 11631 Salter-Colvin Road, Wolcott, NY 14590 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; at the district website at www.nrwcs.org; or by calling the District Clerk at (315) 594-2020. The District Clerk must receive absentee ballot applications at least seven days before the vote (**May 14, 2024**) if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the election (**May 20, 2024**) if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person. Ballots must be returned to the District Office **by 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024**.

Early Voting

Applications for early mail ballots may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk during all days in which the School District is in session. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than **April 22, 2024** and at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. The District Clerk must receive early ballots no later than **5 p.m. on May 21, 2024**.



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Board of Education Candidates

Residents will be asked to elect two members to the Board of Education for terms that begin on July 1, 2024 and end on June 30, 2029, to succeed the following incumbents: Jasen Sloan, Paul Statskey. If you wish to write in candidates who are not on the ballot, you may do so at voting time following the instructions on the ballot. Candidates are listed below in the order they appear on the ballot.

Michael VanAkin

Length of Residency in North Rose-Wolcott: 20 years

Family: Wife and five children with two of them still in school - one in 1st grade and the other in 8th grade

Education: graduate of North Rose-Wolcott High School

Professional Background: U.S. Army

Additional Background: Coach



Erica Hacker

Length of Residency in North Rose-Wolcott: 3 years

Family: husband, Michael; children Kadience (16), Maverick (14) and Arrow (2)

Education: Graduate of Mynderse Academy

Professional Background: Executive assistant at Rochem

Additional Background: Involved with NRW booster clubs



Lesley Haffner

Length of Residency in North Rose-Wolcott: 5 years

Family: husband, Eric; children Jodi, Cora (12th grade), Marcus (10th grade), Jimmy (7th grade), Audrey and Elena

Education: B.A. in secondary education from Brigham Young University

Professional Background: HR support and raw product inspection/receiving at Cahoon Farms

Additional Background: Member of North Rose-Wolcott Dollars for Scholars Committee, Wayne County 4H leader, Wayne CCE Advisory Board member, has helped coach youth recreational sports and was a Cub Scout leader for 3 years.



Travis Kerr

Length of Residency in North Rose-Wolcott: 43 years

Family: wife, Jen; children Brody, Chase, Dixon and Emberleigh

Education: Graduate of North Rose-Wolcott High School

Professional Background: Worked for 187 Carpentry Union in Geneva after graduation; foreman at David Sattora Siding since 2003



Five Inducted Into Athletic Hall of Fame

The North Rose-Wolcott Central School District inducted four people into its Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony April 13 at North Rose-Wolcott High School.

The NRW Athletic Hall of Fame was established to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches, administrators and Cougar supporters and to enhance current student athletes' understanding and appreciation for the positive role models in the tradition of Cougar Athletics. Through nomination and committee selection, the Hall of Fame recognizes athletes who have been graduated from NRW a minimum of 10 years; individuals who have made significant contributions to NRW athletic programs as a coach; or individuals who have made a significant impact on district, sectional, regional, state, national, professional or international athletics.

The 2024 honorees include Zakk Hess, Terry Moss, David Urban, Jerry Decausemaker and James Prentice. Check out our website, www.nrwcs.org, for more information on each inductee.

Congratulations to the Hall of Fame Class of 2024!



Gilbert Named Recipient of W-FL Superintendent's Award

North Rose-Wolcott High School senior Nicholas Gilbert has been named NRW's 2024 recipient of the Wayne-Finger Lakes Superintendent Award. Nick also received a \$750 scholarship from Campus Construction during the awards program, held March 7 at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES in Newark.

Nick is a member of National Honor Society and is a multiple-sport athlete. He demonstrates resilience both on and off the field and he has worked hard to be the best version of himself throughout his time as a student at NRWHS. He is reflective and has a willingness to help others. His academics are a testament to his dedication and drive. His work at BOCES in the electrical trades program is exceptional and according to his instructors, he is collaborative and produces excellent work.

Award recipients must have a GPA of 80 or higher at the end of their junior year; demonstrate leadership qualities including honesty, compassion, perseverance, responsibility, kindness, resiliency and industriousness; and have a history of service to their schools, families and communities. Nominees must also fill out an application and write an essay.

Congratulations, Nick!



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NRW High School FBLA Shines at State Leadership Conference

North Rose-Wolcott High School's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) attended the state leadership conference on April 11 in Rochester. While there, students participated in leadership workshops and competed in career-oriented events, with two seniors earning the chance to compete at the national level this summer!

Ryan DeWispelaere placed 4th in Healthcare Administration and qualified to compete at the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, at the end of June after being named one of the top four in New York State in his event.

Reilly Batzold also qualified to compete at the national leadership conference after placing 5th in Public Policy and Advocacy. Additionally, Reilly

made the finals in the Impromptu Speaking event. The team of Avery Boogaard, Lily Mastrangelo, and Tyler Gardner made the finals in the Introduction to Social Media Strategies event.

Congratulations to all FBLA members on a job well done!

Elementary, High School Clubs Contribute to the Community

The North Rose-Wolcott Elementary Student Council and North Rose-Wolcott High School Interact Club recently gave their time to two worthy causes in the community.

NRWE Student Council members held a pet supplies drive to benefit the Humane Society of Wayne County. Students collected supplies the week of April 15-19 and had a table at the spring Parent Community Fair to raise awareness and collect donations, including a fun game of "Pin the Tail on the Pet."

Boxes full of supplies were dropped off to the shelter following the drive.

On Saturday, April 20, 13 members of the NRWHS Interact Club joined the Wolcott Rotary in an Earth Day cleanup. Students joined Rotary members in cleaning up the parking areas and shorelines at Sawmill Cove and Chimney Bluffs.

We are grateful to our students and the community for their help!



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North Rose-Wolcott Central School District

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Wolcott, NY 14590
(315) 594-3141

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Board Member

JASEN SLOAN
Board Member

PAUL STATSKEY
Board Member

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MICHAEL PULLEN

ECRWSS

RURAL ROUTE OR P.O. BOX HOLDER

Marc Mero Visits Middle and High Schools

In March, students at North Rose-Wolcott Middle School and North Rose-Wolcott High School attended a presentation by retired professional wrestler Marc Mero.

Mero's presentation, "Champion of Choices," highlights his life journey and how the choices he made affected his life. Mero, who grew up in Buffalo, overcame many obstacles and setbacks to find success in sports and as a wrestling champion. He entertained audiences for nearly 15 years before losing it all to bad choices. He founded Champion of Choices in 2007 and travels the country to encourage students to dream big, have compassion for others, and make the choices that support their dreams.

Students loved hearing Mero's message and felt empowered to make a difference at school and in their own lives.

