Rush-Henrietta Central School District
www.rhnet.org

TO: Dr. Barbara Mullen, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Anthony Montoro III, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

RE: Emergency Application of Herbicides

DATE: May 5th, 2026

The purpose of this memo is to recommend the use of herbicides on schools grounds. In 2010, New York State enacted legislation restricting herbicide use on school grounds to reduce exposure risks. Since that time, district athletic fields have experienced increasing weed encroachment.

Currently, weeds such as dandelions, clover, and plantain have overtaken large portions of the turf, negatively impacting field conditions. This overgrowth reduces traction and cushioning, creating potential safety concerns for students during physical education classes and athletic activities. In some areas, vegetation has reached heights approaching knee level for younger students. Additionally, these conditions attract bees and other pollinators, increasing the risk of stings for students, staff, and spectators.

State law permits emergency herbicide applications when deemed necessary by authorized entities, including boards of education. Based on current field conditions, an emergency application is recommended to restore safe playing surfaces and reduce exposure to stinging insects.

Targeted treatment would be limited to the most affected sites, including Sperry, Roth, Burger/Vollmer, Winslow/Webster, Sherman, Crane, Fyle, Leary, and Good Shepherd. Applications would be scheduled during school breaks (early morning hours) to allow a minimum of 48 hours of dwell time prior to re-entry, thereby minimizing exposure risk. Proposed treatment windows are June 27–July 5, with August 21–August 28 identified as an alternate period based on weather conditions.

If the Board of Education agrees it is suggested the following resolution be adopted:

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District declares an emergency application of herbicides be allowed on district grounds at Sperry, Roth, Burger/Vollmer, Winslow/Webster/Admin, Sherman, Crane, Fyle, Leary, Good Shepherd, WHEB and the TOC, to lower the risk of injury or insect stings. Notifications will be posted on the district website. Only one application per field will be made and the application periods will be Memorial Day weekend in May, the end of June/beginning of July or Labor Day weekend 2026, when school is not in session.