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SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION #1: THE 1998 NHS JUNIOR CLASS ELECTION SEASON

3-way presidential rematch possible

Brunetti will run, McBride “probably” in, Stevens to decide today

Campaign '98

Upcoming events

- Tim Stevens to announce today whether he plans to run for class president
- Key Club elections to be held on Tuesday

With more than a month left until this year's Newington High juniors vote in their last high school class officer elections, potential candidates for the presidency of the Class of '99 are already starting to jockey for position. And so far, it looks like a familiar

field—possibly even a rematch of last year's three-way race for class president.

Jeff Brunetti, who is generally believed to have finished third in last year's race—although official election results are never released to the public—announced on April 1, one month ago today, that he plans to give it another shot.

“After the terrible defeat that we had, I'm still running again,” Brunetti stated. He said that he hopes to overcome the gap between himself and the other candidates through “hard work and dedication” in his upcoming campaign. Pledging to run a “full campaign” with signs in the hallways, Brunetti proclaimed, “We're going all out this year. We're going all out, baby.”

Then this week, 1997 winner and incumbent president Ryan McBride spoke out about his plans for the June election. He stopped short Wednesday of throwing his hat into the ring, stating that he is “not really sure as of now” whether he will seek re-election. But McBride affirmed that he is “leaning towards” running, saying, “I probably will run.”

Meanwhile, Tim Stevens has kept his intentions shrouded in mystery all year long. But that will end today, when the former president—generally believed to have finished second to McBride in last year's contest— will announce whether or not he plans to run for president in 1998.

(Continued on page 2)



Above: Incumbent Junior Class President Ryan McBride talks to The Living Room Times afterschool Wednesday about his plans for the June election. Behind McBride, his girlfriend,

“First Lady” Beth Milewski, gets books out of her locker. Below: Afterschool on April 1, Jeff Brunetti speaks to his campaign manager, Claudio Gualtieri, moments before announcing that he will run for president later this year.



Stevens to announce plans today

McBride will “probably” seek re-election; Brunetti will run again

(Continued from page 1)

Since stating last week that he would announce his decision on Friday, May 1—today—Stevens has been careful not to drop any hints about his intentions. In English class on Monday, as Stevens prepared to read an assigned paper aloud to the class, *Times* editor Brendan Loy quipped, “It’ll be good practice for your campaign speech.” Stevens cryptically replied, “Thank you.” Later in the same class, when Loy told teacher Judy Roberts that “Tim has a big political announcement coming up at the end of the week,” Stevens simply laughed and made no comment.



Above: Former President Tim Stevens reads an English paper to the class in Mrs. Roberts’s room on Monday. In that same classroom today, Stevens will announce whether or not he plans to run for president in this year’s election.

On Tuesday, Stevens sounded like he might be leaning away from running as he discussed one of the negative aspects of the job, which he described in passing as “one reason I don’t think I want to get back into the political” picture. But he then seemed to suggest that a year away from the presidency was enough when he added, “A year off has done me some good.”

Near the end of fifth period on Thursday, junior Lisa Williams, standing within earshot of Stevens, stated that “Tim Stevens should run for president.” Asked what he thought about that remark, Stevens paused for a brief moment, then uttered a noncommittal “okay.”

But although he did not reveal his plans, Stevens said Thursday that he has already made up his mind about whether to run. “I’ve pretty much made my decision,” he said. That decision will finally be made public after fifth period today.

Asked whether he has a preference for which decision Stevens makes, President McBride said Wednesday, “No. I have no preference whatsoever. If he decides to run, that’s fine. Good luck to him.”

Stevens, for his part, reacted approvingly to the fact that McBride will “probably” run for re-election. “I’m glad to hear it,” Stevens said. “He should run. He’s done the job the past year; to quit now would seem kind of a waste.”

“I think that Ryan McBride should run. He did a nice job,” said Claudio Gualtieri, Jeff Brunetti’s campaign manager for the second straight year. “But he *knows* the power of Jeff Brunetti’s campaign, once we mobilize all

our people,” Gualtieri added.

Despite his still undecided position about whether to run, McBride sounded like a candidate throughout his Wednesday interview with *The Living Room Times* as he answered questions about what he will or will not do if he decides to run.

“A lot of stuff should be done differently,” McBride said when asked what issues will be the focus of his campaign if he runs. “We didn’t get out to as quick a start as I would’ve liked to [this year], but that’s due to lack of experience. But now we have the experience that’s needed to run

the class, and we’ve gained a lot of maturity through running the junior prom, so if we [incumbents] are all elected again, we should look forward to a good year next year.”

McBride said that the junior prom was “our main goal this year. And it was successful. So, that was our main goal, and we achieved it.”

McBride also addressed the oft-discussed complaints of students who, ever since his humorous campaign speech and rowdy rise to victory last year, have insisted that this president does not take his job seriously and is a “joke.” McBride stated Wednesday that the success of the junior prom “shows that I’m not a joke. I’m a serious individual.”

McBride’s girlfriend, “First Lady” Beth Milewski, agreed that her boyfriend is a hard worker and a serious president. “When he’s serious, he’s serious,” Milewski stated. “He can be serious about stuff.”

“I like to joke around a lot,” the president admitted. “You know, I’m a sixteen-year-old...but I still take what I do seriously to the largest extent I can possibly do.”

Speaking of the year as a whole, McBride said, “I’m pleased with my performance. I’m pleased with everyone else’s performance. We did as best as we could with the time allotted. As I said before, I wish we could have gotten off to a better start, but unfortunately that’s not the case. But if the students of the class decide to let us ‘give it a go’ again next year, I’m sure it’ll probably be better results.”

All four of the other incumbents will definitely run

(Continued on page 3)

Decisions await Stevens, McBride

Ex-president to announce this afternoon whether he'll run again; Incumbent will "probably" seek re-election but is not certain yet

(Continued from page 2)

for re-election, according to McBride. "I'm the only question mark," the president said.

Asked what will be the major factors which determine whether or not he decides to run, McBride said, "I'm looking at how we finish up the year. If we don't finish up the year strong, I don't feel that I should run again." But he then added, seemingly as an afterthought, "I probably will run anyway, even if no one else runs, because I think it's unfair if I don't do it again...like, I should give someone the opportunity to beat me. I shouldn't just win and then just quit."

Aside from Brunetti and possibly Stevens, no other major challenges to McBride have yet surfaced, at least as far as *The Living Room Times* is aware. The only other student who has said he will run for president is Tim Jorel, but it is very uncertain whether or not Jorel was being serious. "I plan to run," Jorel proclaimed Wednesday as he walked past McBride in the hallway. Still within earshot of the president, Jorel added, "McBride's goin' down."

Liz Acey, who toyed with the idea of running for president last year but eventually decided against it, seemed to have given little thought to the idea this year when asked about it Thursday. "Have I thought about it? I don't know...I don't know if I could hold the class together. I'd try. I'd make stuff fun, but I don't know how much order I could maintain. I'll think about it. I'll get back to you."

Peter Pellegrini, who had planned to run for president last year but then never signed up, said Thursday that his "full support" goes to President McBride this year.

Early in last year's election season, Pellegrini was the leader of a "slate" which planned to run one student for each class office. But like Pellegrini's own candidacy, the "Pellegrini slate" never took shape when the election sign-up period began. Asked Thursday afterschool whether anyone from his former slate is likely to run against the McBride Administration, Pellegrini replied, "I don't think so."

Chris Manzione, a member of that "Pellegrini slate" which never materialized, was asked early on Thursday whether there were any rumors that a similar "slate" might form this year. "Not at this moment, but it's still pretty early," Manzione said. "Something will probably brew up, whether it be Casioppo or Jorel or Pellegrini." He suggested that the slate, if it forms, might try to hook up with President McBride or might run candidates for the other four offices but *not* for president. "McBride's going to be a tough president to beat. He's very popular," said Manzione, a McBride supporter last year who then described the triumphant candidate as "the only kid I know who could top Tim Stevens."

Another *Living Room Times* Special Election Edition scheduled for Monday will detail today's announcement by Stevens of his plans for this year's election, as well as more information about candidates for president and the other class offices.

Monday's edition will also include a preview of the Key Club elections, which are to be held on Tuesday. The edition will include profiles of the four candidates for president/vice president, the two candidates for secretary, and the three candidates for treasurer.