

YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Volume 37• Number 1

October 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Letter from the Board of Education
- SSHS's New Principal
- District App
- School Improvement Bond and Capital Improvement Update
- Meet the New Staff
- iPad Rollout

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

- 7 Board of Education Public Work Session
- 12 Schools Closed—Columbus Day
- 21 Board of Education Meeting

November

- 3 Schools Closed for Students — Election Day
- 5 Board of Education Public Work Session
- 11 Schools Closed—Veterans' Day
- 18 Board of Education Meeting

The Rockville Centre Board of Education would like to welcome everyone to the 2015/2016 school year. We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to start an exciting new school year. Inside this issue you will find an update about the progress made on many of the Bond projects over the summer, read about the new teachers in the District, and find information about our iPad initiative.

We invite all residents to attend our Board of Education meetings or to watch them on Thursday evenings on The School Channel (channel 19 for Cablevision subscribers or channel 36 for Verizon FIOS subscribers). For a complete list of Board of Education meetings click [here](#). Your input about our District will enable us to continue to provide students with the best education possible.

Sincerely,
Liz, Mayda, Gregg, Mark and John
Rockville Centre Board of Education

Welcome New South Side High School Principal, John Murphy



On July 1, 2015 the District welcomed John Murphy as the new South Side High School Principal. Mr. Murphy earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science Degrees at Queens College and worked as an English teacher at South Side High School from September 1997 through June 2007. He served as the International Baccalaureate Academic Facilitator at South Side High School from 2001 through 2007 and was appointed Assistant Principal assigned to South Side High School on July 1, 2007. He received tenure on July 1, 2010.

To All Rockville Centre School District Residents

If you believe that your school-age or preschool child may have a disability, please contact Dr. Noreen Leahy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education, (516)255-8928, or Dr. Orly Gadon, Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Education at (516) 255-8942.

The Rockville Centre School District has an App!

It's everything you want to know about the Rockville Centre School District in one easy-to-use, mobile location! The Rockville Centre School District's custom app gives parents and students easy access to Push Notifications, the District calendar, eBackpack, PowerSchool, lunch menus, lunch account balances, sports scores and more! To download the app, search Rockville Centre Schools in the App Store or scan the QR code!



School Improvement Bond Update

In March 2013, our community came together and approved the School Improvement Bond. The major projects within the Bond included adding space to Watson Elementary School and South Side High School, providing air-conditioning for all instructional spaces in the District, modernizing outdated and inadequate science labs at the High School, updating music, theatre and arts facilities throughout the District and addressing structural and site issues in the District's buildings. The following is an update on the status of these projects.

As of the start of school in September 2015, the north addition at South Side High School and the addition at Watson Elementary School were completed and ready for student use. At South Side High School the north addition is home to 6 new state of the art classrooms; 5 are dedicated to Art instruction and 1 is a Music Studio Lab. The new fitness center has ample space to hold the most advanced cardiovascular fitness equipment which was funded by the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) Federal Grant. This larger space allows the physical education teachers and coaching staff to use it as a teaching station before, during and after school hours. The Fitness Center overlooks the turf field which was completed at the start of the 2014-2015 school year. If you join us to view a game played on the turf field this fall, you will also notice new bleachers, a press box and a concession stand. This area is beautiful and is ready for our athletes and our spectators.

Reconfiguration of the main building of the High School also took place creating 5 classrooms where the Library used to stand and allowed for the Outdoor Structures classroom to be brought into the main building. The Library has been moved to a temporary location until its permanent home is constructed in the south addition. The completion of the north addition and the reconfiguration of the main building at South Side High School gave us enough space in the main building to allow us to demolish all but one of the outdoor structures on the high school campus. These outdoor structures were part of the campus for over 20 years. The remaining outdoor structure will be demolished after the construction of the south addition at the High School. Work on the south addition has already begun and is expected to be ready for student use in September 2016.

At Watson Elementary School, with the addition of three new classrooms and small instructional spaces, Music and Art will have their own dedicated space in a shared classroom, while Band and Orchestra will also have a dedicated space for lessons. In response to concerns from neighboring residents, the parking lot was reconfigured to hold an additional 19 spots. At the start of school Watson staff members, students and parents were buzzing with excitement about the new addition and were happy to see how their school had become vibrant and cheerful.

Installation of air-conditioning is an ongoing project that began in 2014 and will continue through May 2016 when all classrooms in the District will be air-conditioned. At Hewitt Elementary School, an upgrade of the electrical system is necessary before the completion of air-conditioning can take place. We are working with the Rockville Centre Village to complete this work.



Watson Elementary Addition

School Improvement Bond Update

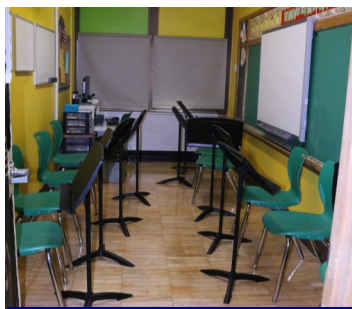
Other major Bond projects which were completed in 2014 included repairs to balcony seating in the auditorium and replacement of the track at South Side Middle School, replacement of roofs at Covert and Watson Elementary Schools, replacement of the baseball fencing and backstop at Covert Elementary School and installment of higher fencing on the north field at Wilson Elementary School.

During Bond discussions with the community, it was decided that all classrooms be fitted with new safety locksets. These have been ordered and their installation has begun and will continue until all have been installed.

Your patience during the construction of the north addition at South Side High School and the addition at Watson Elementary School was greatly appreciated. We ask for your understanding once again during the 2015/2016 school year as we continue with the construction of the south addition at South Side High School.



Reconfigured parking lot at Watson



Watson's music practice space



New classroom at Watson



South Side High School North Addition



New Fitness Center at SSHS



New Bio-Art classroom at SSHS



Press box, bleachers and field at SSHS



South Side High School Portable Demolition



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rockville Centre Public Schools

128 Shepherd Street Rockville Centre, NY 11570

(516)255-8957

LIZ DION, President

MAYDA KRAMER, Vice President

GREGG SPAULDING, Secretary

MARK MASIN, Trustee

JOHN O'SHEA, Trustee

WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, Ed.D., Supt. of Schools

ROBERT A. BARTELS, Asst. Supt. of Schools

CHRISTOPHER J. PELLETTIERI, Asst. Supt. of Schools

NOREEN LEAHY, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. of Schools

Meet The New Staff 2015-2016



(L to R) Lyndsey Knowles, Jessica Berke, Danielle Keane, Gordon Wood, Tracey Bettes, Margaret Murphy, Emily Palumbo

Tracey Bettes earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees at Molloy College. She will be teaching Social Studies at South Side Middle School. **Alexandra D'Angelo** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Hofstra University and her Masters of Science from Queens College. She will be teaching Math at South Side High School. **Danielle**

Keane earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Queens College, where she is currently enrolled in a Master's program. She will be teaching Social Studies at South Side Middle School. **Lyndsey Knowles** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Quinnipiac University and her Master of Arts degree at Molloy College. She will be teaching third grade at Wilson Elementary School. **Darnell McCallum** earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Queens College and is currently enrolled in a Master's program at Long Island University/C.W. Post. He will be teaching Math at South Side Middle School. **Margaret Murphy** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from SUNY Binghamton and her Master of Arts degree from Brooklyn College. She will be teaching Social Studies at South Side High School. **Emily Palumbo** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Fordham University and her Master of Science degree at Hofstra University. She will be teaching English at South Side High School. **Dr. Gordon Wood** earned his Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science and Doctor of Psychology degrees at CW Post – Long Island University. Dr. Wood will be working District-wide as a School Psychologist.

iPad Project Expands into South Side High School

With the success of the 2014/2015 iPad rollout to all Middle School students, the District has decided to distribute iPads to the entire student body at both South Side Middle School and South Side High School. This will be the first year that every student from grade 5-12 will have a District-owned iPad for instructional use. While the iPads for 5th grade students will stay in classrooms, students in grades 6-12 will take their iPads home with them. In order to ensure success, internet security and Wi-Fi bandwidth have been updated and more apps aimed at specific grade levels and subjects have been added.

"We are excited by this opportunity and are grateful that this community understands the need to constantly improve and move education forward. This is a real opportunity to transform education in our buildings. Our challenge is to work with teachers to help students in the development of tasks that couldn't have been thought possible before we put access to so much information right at their fingertips," said Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Christopher Pellettieri.

iPads have become an invaluable resource to our students. This initiative will allow students to have access to the vast resources available through technology including programs such as "Flipped Learning" which allows them to access, outside of the classroom, lessons prepared by their teachers.

By utilizing iPads that were already in the High School Library, the District only needed to purchase iPads for three grades. While this is a large investment, we feel strongly that it's not just an investment in technology but an investment in the future of our students. In an effort to support this initiative, teachers have already begun professional development in the use of iPads in their classrooms and more opportunities will be available in the future to ensure that we use the technology to its greatest potential.