

To the Editor:

On October 6, 2014, the Scarsdale BOE unanimously voted to call for a bond referendum on December 11, 2014. The referendum is for one Bond Proposition, totaling \$18.12MM, to finance construction and renovations in five of our District's seven buildings and to update the District's information systems technology.

We made the decision to bring this referendum to the public because we believe it enables the District to fulfill its mission of educating each child in a safe, appropriate and stimulating environment by:

- Alleviating overcrowding;
- Improving security; and
- Providing the tools for moving forward with 21st century teaching and learning.

These projects were developed through building committees and reviewed by parents, teachers, principals, students, architects and the Scarsdale school administration, including our new superintendent, Dr. Thomas Hagerman. Throughout this collaborative process, we listened and responded to community feedback and adjusted the plans as warranted.

The Board concluded that from a financial perspective, this decision is fiscally prudent. Interest rates for borrowing remain at historically low levels, and maturing debt enables the work to be done without increasing annual debt service costs to the taxpayers.

Representing the highest priorities for each of the schools, the anticipated capital projects are:

District-wide:

Upgrade of the District's technology infrastructure - \$1.40 million

Edgewood School:

Reconstruction of the library and relocation of the school office - \$3.56 million

Heathcote School:

New multipurpose room and additional small group instruction rooms - \$3.39 million

Quaker Ridge School:

New roof – \$ 908,000

Middle School:

New orchestra classroom and a renovated music room - \$2.10 million

High School:

- Renovation of Gym B and existing Fitness Center into a Learning Commons, Innovation Lab and collaborative meeting spaces, along with additional food preparation, serving and dining areas, and renovation of Gym A - \$5.09 million

- Relocation and renovation of storage and offices for physical education, athletics program to facilitate creation of the Design Lab - \$677,000
- Renovation and repairs to the auditorium and backstage areas - \$1.0 million

More information about the bond referendum and these capital projects is available at the Scarsdale Public Schools website: www.scarsdaleschools.org.

We are excited about these projects, and we would like to share the details with you. We will be attending meetings with PTAs, the Scarsdale Forum, SNAP and neighborhood associations, as well as other organizations throughout Scarsdale. If you would like us to meet with your neighbors, please let us know by contacting us at boardofed@scarsdaleschools.org.

We will be holding tours of the current lunch areas of the High School on October 27 and 29. We will also be holding town hall meetings on November 24 at 7:30 pm, and on December 2 at 10:30 am, to answer any questions that you may have. These meetings will be televised on the Scarsdale Schools cable TV station. They will also be available online at the Scarsdale Public Schools website.

The Scarsdale Board of Education believes the residents of Scarsdale should have the opportunity to cast a vote on these projects. We hope that you will exercise your right to vote on December 11, 2014, at Scarsdale Middle School.

Thank you.

The Scarsdale Board of Education,
Mary Beth Gose, President
Leila Maude, Vice President
Suzanne Seiden
Lewis Leone, Jr.
William Natbony
Christopher Morin
Scott E. Silberfein