



SCARSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2 Brewster Road
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

Trustees

Amber Yusuf, President
Ron Schulhof, Vice President
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Tuesday, August 23, 2022

VIA Email

Mayor Jane E. Veron
Trustee Sameer Ahuja
Trustee Karen L. Brew
Trustee Jeremy A. Gans
Trustee Jonathan E. Lewis
Trustee Kenneth L. Mazer
Deputy Mayor Randall B. Whitestone
Scarsdale Village Hall
1001 Post Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583

Dear Mayor Veron and Village Trustees,

Thank you for the invitation to make a statement regarding telecommunication service in the community and around the Scarsdale Schools. The Scarsdale School Board discussed your invitation at our July 1, 2022 and [August 22, 2022 meetings] and supports the Village Board's effort to address telecommunication gaps that impact service in and around the schools and urges the Village Board to prioritize these areas. Safe learning environments are a key foundation of the pillars of the District's strategic plan and closing gaps in telecommunication services in and around the schools will strengthen school safety. The Board respectfully requests the Village Board prioritize addressing gaps in and around the schools. As specific proposals are reviewed by the Village, the Board respectfully requests that the Board and District are consulted on any proposal that is either near a school property or impacts school property.

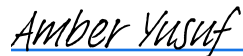
Background: The Board and District continue to view the areas of safety, security, and emergency management (SSEM) as essential priorities. Communications in and around schools remain a critical component of safety and security plans. The Board and District recognize that there are gaps in telecommunication coverage in and around school buildings. In recent years, the District has made investments in improving communications where possible to enhance safety protocols. Specific projects that have been completed include improvements to instructional wifi and guest wifi services and the procurement of a new handheld radio system which provides coverage throughout the district and surrounding areas for radio communication. Currently, the District is conducting a wifi heat map study to determine areas on district property where wifi service can be improved, in part to supplement a lack of telecommunication service availability. Additionally, to help address telecommunication service gaps, the District IT team has also investigated signal boosters in and around school buildings with the major cell carriers but this effort has been largely unsuccessful. Despite these efforts, the District is aware of continued gaps in cell service, both in and around district property, and supports efforts to address these telecommunication gaps.

Addressing Telecommunication Gaps and Prioritizing School Areas: The Board supports the Village's effort to address telecommunication gaps and urges the Village to consider prioritizing the gaps that impact school property to enhance school safety. Closing existing cell service gaps in and around the schools would help diminish both routine and event-specific safety and security risks. Improved cell coverage will increase safety for all students, faculty and staff, and caregivers during high-traffic transition periods by facilitating reliable and predictable communication. During emergency events (drills or actual), better cell service in and around the schools will improve communications, including with mutual aid agencies from outside of Scarsdale. Thus, the Board believes that addressing telecommunication gaps in and around school property should be prioritized as part of the Village's plan to address telecommunication gaps.

Village and District Partnership: The Board appreciates the Village Board's engagement with the Board and District on this important topic, and respectfully requests that the Village Board prioritize addressing telecommunication gaps in and around the schools. As specific telecommunication proposals are reviewed and discussed by the Village, the Board would appreciate the opportunity for the Board and District to provide input and feedback on any proposal near school property or that impacts school property. Understanding that the Village has many aspects to consider when reviewing a telecommunication proposal, the Board would like to ensure that the Board and District are able to share important information and be a partner in this work.

The Board looks forward to continuing partnership on this and other matters that jointly impact the Village and School District.

Sincerely,



[Amber Yusuf \(Aug 23, 2022 11:16 EDT\)](#)

Amber Yusuf, President
Scarsdale Board of Education



[Colleen Brown \(Aug 24, 2022 16:15 GMT\)](#)

Colleen Brown
Scarsdale Board of Education



[Robert Klein \(Aug 27, 2022 13:42 EDT\)](#)

Robert Klein
Scarsdale Board of Education



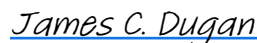
[Jessica Resnick-Ault \(Aug 28, 2022 20:57 EDT\)](#)

Jessica Resnick-Ault
Scarsdale Board of Education



[Ron Schulhof \(Aug 23, 2022 11:19 EDT\)](#)

Ron Schulhof, Vice President
Scarsdale Board of Education



[James C. Dugan \(Aug 24, 2022 12:57 EDT\)](#)

James Dugan
Scarsdale Board of Education



[Suzie Hahn Pascutti \(Aug 27, 2022 23:21 EDT\)](#)

Suzie Hahn Pascutti
Scarsdale Board of Education