

PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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Board of Education

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January 20, 2015

Dear Fellow Community Members:

After almost a year of assessing our facilities, refining our vision for the future of education, and consulting with experts in the field of school design, construction and planning, the Board of Education unanimously adopted a resolution for a capital construction bond that allows us to borrow up to \$69,877,198. The proposed plan ensures that we will have the proper facilities to provide a high quality, cost effective education for the children of Port Washington going forward into the 21st century. The Board, along with the District's administration, received much input from the community and we held many meetings and building tours. The administration, faculty, and staff, as well as many members of our diverse community, came together to develop a comprehensive plan that we are proud to have adopted. The proposed plan:

- Upgrades science labs at Paul D. Schreiber High School and Carrie Palmer Weber Middle School
- Creates at least one science lab in every elementary school
- Creates two multipurpose athletic fields
- Provides for air conditioning in one large common space in each school
- Provides for technology upgrades
- Provides for security enhancements
- Repairs, reconstructs and/or renovates all seven schools and the administration building, including HVAC, bathrooms, windows, floors, ceilings, parking lots and locker rooms at Schreiber and Weber
- Replaces portables with secure, permanent, and integrated structures
- Renovates the high school and middle school auditoriums
- Constructs new classrooms to accommodate our growing population

For complete details regarding the proposed scope of the work and current information about the bond, please visit our district website at www.portnet.k12.ny.us.

All work, as required by law, will be completed by the lowest responsible bidder, and we intend to have a "clerk of the works," to ensure that the community's investment is used in the most cost effective manner. The nature of the work, as well as the need to minimize disruption to the students, will necessitate that the work be completed over a seven-year period. This will allow us to borrow in stages, which will save on the cost of borrowing. It is projected that the additional cost to the homeowners of the average priced home will average \$106 per year from 2015-2023, after which there will be no additional increase, because the 2001 construction bond will be fully paid and the debt for this bond will replace it, having a neutral tax impact in 2023 and beyond.

We are acutely aware of the need to balance the community's desire for a quality educational system for our children, and the need to be fiscally prudent.

We will continue to provide the community with information in an open and forthright manner. The community vote on the bond is scheduled for March 10, 2015. In the interim, we encourage everyone to attend our meetings and visit our website to learn more about the plan.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Port Washington School District Board of Education