

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

49 NORTH STONINGTON ROAD · P.O. BOX 479 · OLD MYSTIC, CT 06372
PHONE: (860) 572-0506 FAX: (860) 572-8155



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TO: Parents of Elementary Students

FROM: Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent

DATE: August 15, 2018

SUBJECT: Status of School Construction

Recent news articles and social media comments question the status of our elementary schools for opening. The construction plan all along was to occupy the new buildings at Deans Mill School and West Vine Street School on September 1 and then complete the abatement and renovations of the original building during the school year. While the timeline was extended due to a number of issues, we are set to open the new buildings on time. We are also looking forward to moving into the renovated original buildings in April 2019.

I am very pleased to say that yesterday we received the Certificate of Occupancy for the new building at Deans Mill School. Teachers have been invited to stop by and begin setting up their new classrooms. Our contractors are still working on a few issues at West Vine Street School including an electrical problem that needs to be solved before we can occupy that site. Hopefully we will be able to open that school to staff members in the next few days.

We will continue to provide food service at Deans Mill School and West Vine Street School as we have in the past. The old cafeterias will be out of commission while being renovated with the rest of the original two-story classroom buildings. We are setting up temporary cafeterias at both locations. Deans Mill will use the old gym for their temporary cafeteria. Contractors are currently building a tunnel between the new building and the 1975 building to provide safe and secure access for students and staff members. West Vine Street School will set up a temporary cafeteria in half of the new gym, as they do not have another facility to use. Our food service department has purchased food delivery equipment in order to bring food from other school cafeterias to Deans Mill and West Vine for the next eight months.

Another question has to do with old furniture and equipment. We have saved all of the student desks and chairs plus any other furniture and equipment that may have some value. As the new student furniture arrives in the next few weeks, we will move all of the older furniture to Mystic Middle School and store it there temporarily. We will evaluate potential future needs for the furniture and equipment and then develop a plan to sell or give the older furniture to other schools or non-profit organizations. After that process, we may offer the remaining old furniture and equipment for sale to community members. Our hope is to save, utilize, or sell anything of value.