

Highlights

of the Sayville School District

Fall 2007

District Newsletter

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<http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us>

Newsworthy

BOND Referendum VOTE

NOVEMBER 29, 2007
Sayville High School
7 a.m.—9 p.m.

In this Bond Referendum edition of *Highlights*, we hope to demonstrate how our children and the Sayville Community will benefit from the referendums put forth for vote on November 29th.

Sayville School District
Highlights
NOW

has a web presence.
Check out the
Web Highlights
(sayville.k12.ny.us)
for current
school news coverage!

Voter-approved bond + Sale of properties = No impact on tax rate

A Formula THAT EQUALS Success

As the Class of 2020 begins Kindergarten this year, Sayville's School District Administrators and Board of Education continue to plan for the future of our children's education with a 20/20 focus.

Since the capital improvements evaluation process began in February 2005, the Sayville Board of Education and the Administration have been mindful of the community's concerns—to keep our taxes low. To achieve this, Sayville School District will present for voter approval two propositions that are important components of the most cost-effective financial package possible. The formula that equals success is:

VOTER-APPROVED BOND + SALE OF PROPERTIES = NO IMPACT ON TAX RATE!

Funding the necessary instructional programs and facility enhancements this way will enable Sayville Public Schools to keep meeting the challenges of educating our children while effectively managing costs.

WHAT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS?

TWO PROPOSITIONS:

1. A bond referendum for additions, alterations, and renovations at all our instructional facilities.
2. A referendum seeking approval to sell the Tyler Avenue Maintenance Facility and the Collins Avenue Library property once the Library has moved to its new location.

WHY A BOND NOW?

1. To take advantage of \$1.1 million of EXCEL Aid from New York State and Sayville's 68% building-aid ratio;
2. To enhance/enlarge our buildings to meet changing instructional needs;
3. To prepare for emergencies;
4. To meet two of the Board's goals on:
 - Wellness
 - Needs of all students



DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SAYVILLE SCHOOLS

Board of Education

JOHN VERDONE,
PRESIDENT

NORMAN DEVENAU,
VICE PRESIDENT

Trustees

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MAUREEN DOLAN

KEITH KOLAR

RAYMOND J. NELSON

DEBORAH VAN ESSENDELFT

Seeking A Bond Referendum

As a fiscally well-managed and responsible School District, Sayville is seeking to bond necessary instructional and construction costs so as to benefit both from the EXCEL Aid of \$1.1 million, as well as the State building aid which returns monies to Sayville School District at 68 cents back on every dollar.

This is the most prudent way to fund construction requirements.

WHEN WAS THIS BOND PROCESS BEGUN?


The lengthy evaluation process that began in February 2005 assessed 'preliminary' needs, program needs, facility needs, cost projections, and sources of funding. A Facility Review Committee, comprised of Sayville taxpayers and local businesses as well as educators, was formed to review and make capital improvement recommendations to the Board of Education.

The Bond Proposal will have an impact on the following buildings:
High School
Middle School
Cherry Avenue Elementary
Lincoln Avenue Elementary
Sunrise Drive Elementary
Administration Building

WHAT ARE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S GOALS?

SAYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD of EDUCATION GOALS



Dedicated to giving all our students roots and wings.

- Sayville Schools will continue to:*
- 1. Fully engage all students in meeting and exceeding rigorous standards for learning and conduct through providing opportunities to excel.*
 - 2. Manage resources to support quality programs and student achievement while adhering to the highest standards of ethics and accountability in all areas of school finance.*
 - 3. Recruit and retain the best-qualified staff to help all our students meet or exceed the goals for learning and conduct.*
 - 4. Demonstrate and advance the highest standards for the health, safety, and security of our students and staff.*
 - 5. Make maximum use of all forms of communication to exchange information in a timely and responsive fashion.*

FORMULA: Voter-approved bond + Sale of properties = No impact on tax rate

Overview of Bond Projects

(See pages 3 and 4 for project details.)

The High School Total for all projects: **\$3,836,750**

- **AUXILARY GYM FOR WELLNESS**—a building addition (approximately 3,000 sf) will include outdoor access to bathroom facilities.

For the new physical education curriculum, all school districts must meet New York State mandates requiring a fitness-training or “Wellness” facility. To fulfill this state-mandated requirement without increasing the taxpayers’ burden, the Sayville School District and Board of Education are funding this building addition of approximately 3,000 sf with the proposed Bond Referendum.

The contemporary term “Wellness Facility,” initiated through New York State mandates, refers to a gym that contains cardio-fitness equipment. Whether the District bonds for it, or includes it in its Annual Budget, it HAS to be done.

HOW DOES THIS TIE INTO A BOARD OF EDUCATION GOAL? (See Board Goals listed on page 2.)

Developing habits that lead to a lifetime of personal fitness conforms to the Board of Education Goal #4. Obesity, diabetes, and heart disease are some of the major health disorders that have increased among the young due to lack of personal fitness awareness. Even students who participate as team players don’t always focus on their individual physical condition.

Through the Auxiliary Gym for Wellness, equipment that promotes individual fitness and creates a lifetime of healthy behaviors will now have instructional space to be incorporated into the physical education curriculum as mandated by New York State.

- **EMERGENCY STAND-BY GENERATOR**—Sayville High School is a Suffolk County Point-of-Distribution (POD) Center and Designated Red Cross Site.

As stated by the Suffolk County Bureau of Public Health Preparedness website: “In some public health emergencies, it will be necessary to distribute medication or vaccine to people exposed to health threats.... Suffolk County may open one or more Point of Distribution (POD) clinic sites....” Additionally, Sayville High School has been designated a Red Cross Emergency site. To fulfill these requirements for handling either man-made or natural health emergencies, the building will need an Emergency Stand-by Generator. (BOE Goal #4.)

- **GYM BLEACHERS**—Health and Safety mandates require replacing the old, inadequate Sayville High School gym bleachers. (BOE Goal #4.)
- **RENOVATION OF HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIAS**—while drafts are preliminary, the reconfigured cafeterias are modeled on successful school food-court designs.

(BOE Goal #4.) Educating students on wellness includes providing a suitable environment for making healthy food choices. Reconfiguring the High School’s cafeterias will both encourage better choices and be more conducive to improved social interaction.

[Overview of Bond Projects](#) continues on page 4.

GETTING THE WORD OUT



Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones, Assistant Superintendent for Business John Belmonte, and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Geraldine Sullivan Keck, along with Board Trustee Deborah Van Essendelft, spoke at PTA Meetings throughout the district about the Bond and Sale of Properties propositions.



PLEASE NOTE:
All renovation plans mentioned above are only in their preliminary stages. Once the District receives voter approval for both propositions, (the Bond referendum and the sale of District properties), further steps will be necessary **BEFORE** any plans can be finalized.

Overview of Bond Projects

continued from page 3.

PROBLEM:
There is no extra instructional space at each of the elementary buildings!

Today's educational programs utilize classroom space much differently than in the past. For this reason school buildings must provide extra instructional space for new programs.

When school-aged populations fluctuate from year to year, schools also need to be flexible with its extra instructional space.

Due to new housing construction in Sayville, it is anticipated that Lincoln Avenue School, especially, will not have extra instructional space to accommodate the expected increase without the renovations outlined here.

What is a Learning/Media Center?

Providing the newest in technologies for our students, the Learning/Media Center will serve as the Library, will provide computer terminals for research, and afford space for personalized instruction.

The Middle School Total for all projects: \$160,000.

- **IRRIGATION FOR FIELDS**
a long overdue and much-needed irrigation system will provide for better-nourished, healthier natural turf.
- **RENOVATION OF FRONT GYM**
as part of the New York State Education mandates (cited earlier), physical education changes require instructional space for cardio equipment. Renovations will include flooring and mirrors.

Cherry Avenue Total for all projects: \$2,312,000

- **ADDITION OF A 4,000 SF LEARNING/MEDIA CENTER**
will open up more instructional space by reusing the school library site for more classrooms.
- **RENOVATIONS FOR MAIN OFFICE AREA**
The current main office configuration is not well situated. This new renovation would allow for better visibility and provide for improved security of the main building entrance.
- **ADDITION OF A MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

Lincoln Avenue Total for all projects: \$4,125,000.

- **FOUR ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS**
Lincoln Avenue needs more flexible instructional space. This space shortage, coupled with new methods of teaching elementary curriculum, require renovations as outlined below:
 - Renovating/adding one classroom to K wing
 - Relocating existing art room, yielding one new classroom
 - Extending southwest corridor, adding two classrooms
- **ADDITION OF A 4,000 SF LEARNING/MEDIA CENTER**
Opens up more instructional space by reusing the school library site.
- **ONE SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM**
- **RENOVATE EXISTING LIBRARY TO NEW ART CLASSROOM**
- **TWO ADA BATHROOMS SERVING CAFETERIA AREA**

Sunrise Drive Total for all projects: \$2,625,000.

- **NEW MULTIPURPOSE ROOM ADDITION TO MIDDLE WING**
When enrollment fluctuations occur, the new Multipurpose Room can also be used as two classrooms.
- **RENOVATE EXISTING MULTIPURPOSE ROOM TO NEW LEARNING/MEDIA CENTER**
 - Creation of new art storage
 - Creation of reading room
 - Creation of two small office/meeting spaces
- **RENOVATE OLD LIBRARY SPACE:**
- **NEW BOYS AND GIRLS BATHROOMS IN CAFETERIA AREA**

Administration Bldg Total for all projects: \$181,250.

- **EMERGENCY STAND-BY GENERATOR**
The Administration Building headquarters the District Communication Center. To facilitate communication during an emergency, the Administration Building must be up and running.

FORMULA: Voter-approved bond + Sale of properties = No impact on tax rate

Q. WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT FOR BOND PROJECTS?

Total needed for Sayville School District Projects: **\$13,240,000**

Minus EXCEL Aid slated for Sayville School District: **— 1,140,517**

Amount to be bonded: \$12,100,000

\$12,099,483

Q. WHAT IS THE COST TO THE COMMUNITY?

When the District originally examined this proposal last year, the average taxpayer would have been expected to see approximately \$4.17 per month increase on the tax levy. In this new proposal, WITH THE SALE OF PROPERTIES, there would be NO tax increase.

Q. HOW CAN THE COST HAVE NO IMPACT?

Keep in mind that New York State will give 68% of the \$12,100,000 bond money back to Sayville over the life of the projects. The remaining 32% cost for the Bond (*which would have seen a monthly increase on the tax levy of \$4.17 for the average homeowner with a house at assessed tax value of \$40,000*) **WILL INSTEAD** be offset by portions of the proceeds from the District properties for sale. This is why the sale of the properties is key to the successful formula: **Voter-approved bond + Sale of properties = No impact on tax rate!**

What is EXCEL AID?

Last year, Sayville School District sent out a special edition (see insert) informing the community about EXCEL Aid.

New York State passed legislation that provided for a specific aid category for building projects. Called EXCEL (Expanding Our Children's Education and Learning) Aid, the purpose of this program is to provide capital project financing or assistance in the form of grants to eligible school districts.

Sayville's apportionment of EXCEL Aid, determined by

enrollment and funded through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, is \$1,140,517—but collecting those funds requires voter approval.

Through EXCEL Aid, Sayville has access to an additional source of funding. This aid can be earmarked to offset the costs of capital bond projects that the

EXCEL Aid reimburses the District—within 30-90 DAYS after the money is spent!

Sayville District will receive \$1.1 million in EXCEL Aid from the State, if voters approve.

Coupled with a Bond, this greatly reduces future debt service.

Last year, New York State passed legislation that provided for a specific aid category for building projects. Called EXCEL (Expanding Our Children's Education and Learning) Aid, the purpose of this program is to provide capital project financing or assistance in the form of grants to eligible school districts.

This is good news! This aid for qualified projects is in addition to the school district's building aid. All districts are eligible for funds if their spending plans are approved by the State and fall into categories that include technology improvements, health and safety issues, and improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

Sayville's apportionment of EXCEL Aid, determined by enrollment and funded through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, is \$1,140,517—but collecting those funds requires voter approval.

EXCEL Aid will complement Sayville's funding strategies for capital construction projects, allowing for a combination of revenue sources like a bond issue, capital funds approved and provided for in the annual budget, and other special aid.

Through EXCEL Aid, Sayville has access to an additional source of funding. This aid can be earmarked to offset the costs of capital bond projects that the Board of Education may wish to present to the voters for approval.

Should voters approve projects being developed in the District, taxpayers could have their share of the bill offset with this new source of funds. This is a one-time aid program according to the State Education Department website.

Voter-approved EXCEL Aid coupled with voter-approved bonds, will:

- finance facility maintenance and upgrades
- foster the achievement of educational objectives
- meet the highest standards for cleanliness, comfort, and safety
- greatly reduce future debt service
- AND subsequently have the **LEAST EFFECT ON THE TAX RATE** of our local residents.

Board of Education is presenting to the voters for approval.

EXCEL Aid is a one-time aid program according to the State Education Department.

LEARN MORE!

• Check out both the District Link and the Web Highlights at www.sayville.k12.ny.us.

• Come to the Superintendent's Roundtable for a Public Hearing on November 15, 7:30 pm in the High School Cafeteria.

Owned by Sayville School District, the Tyler Avenue Maintenance Facility and the Library site are both tax exempt properties. Once sold, these two properties can become part of the tax roles and can potentially reduce future debt service, resulting in lower and stable tax rates over time.

Q. WHY SELL THESE PROPERTIES?

- The Tyler Avenue facility has outlived its useful life (*see photos below*) and the Library property on Collins Avenue will no longer be needed.
- Selling both of these properties will provide the District with the necessary funding to relocate and rebuild a new Maintenance facility on property the District already owns—at no cost to the taxpayers, and
- To use remaining proceeds to offset any potential impact to the tax rate relating to the \$12.1M Bond Referendum.
- In addition, once sold, there's a good possibility that these properties would go back on the tax roles – further reducing the tax burden for the community.



Photos of Tyler Avenue Maintenance Facility. Because Tyler Avenue is not an instructional facility, it is not eligible for State Aid. It would cost the District over 1.5 million unaidable dollars to restore the building.



Q. HOW WILL A BOND AFFECT OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION?

The Bond proposal will address

- Changes in New York State Education and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) mandates, which require educational institutions to deliver instruction in new ways. Additional instructional space for these mandated services is needed at each of the elementary schools.
- Gymnasium "Wellness" facility upgrade and addition, as part of the Physical Education for cardio-fitness program, at both the Middle School and High School.
- Emergency site preparedness, as designated by the Red Cross, providing generators for both the High School and Administration Building.



SUMMARY

Q. WHY IS A BOND NECESSARY?

environment for students and staff. In addition, mandated changes to the instructional program require certain alterations to our facilities.

Since New York State has changed the way school districts receive building aid for capital improvements, it has become more cost-effective to do a Bond Referendum rather than include the entire cost within the annual budget. A Bond Referendum prevents the taxpayers from funding the cost of the entire project upfront through the annual budget.

School districts must fund the necessary maintenance of their facilities to ensure a safe

Q. WHAT ARE SOME UPCOMING EVENTS?

- Nov. 1 • BOE Workshop, 7pm
- Nov. 6 • Superintendent's Conference Day (Schools closed for students)
- Nov. 8 • BOE Meeting, 8pm.
- Nov. 15 • BOND Public Hearing at Superintendent's Roundtable 7:30 pm, in the High School cafeteria
- Nov. 29 • BOND VOTE 7am-9pm, High School Lobby

Moving Ahead: *Bond Referendum and Sale of District Properties*

The symbol of the flywheel exemplifies the positive momentum that has been building in Sayville schools.

The District is moving forward with initiatives in all areas in an effort to meet the challenges of educating children for the future.

The projects contained within the proposed bond referendum work in concert with the District's educational goals. It is the recognition of this interplay between instruction and facility planning that is the impetus for seeking community approval of a bond and the sale of properties.



of the Sayville School District
HIGHLIGHTS

99 Greeley Avenue
Sayville, New York 11782
Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

School Tax Code 566

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