

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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COLIN BYRNE, D.P.S.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 24, 2022

Construction Update

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

The start of the new school year is on the horizon! I know that many of you are now wondering what the status of the District's construction project is. At the August 10th Board of Education meeting a presentation was made on the current status of the project. You can view the presentation by [CLICKING HERE](#). I am including a summary of the presentation below.

First and foremost, following multiple safety inspections throughout the past year, we have received a full Certificate of Occupancy for the part of the building that we have occupied since the end of last school year, including all of the new classrooms opened last fall. This means that there is **no danger** of the school being closed as it was last year.

Our expenses on the project are still safely below the voter authorized amount. There is a sufficient cushion for any last minute expenses that may emerge related to the final inspection and opening of the building.

Despite our best efforts, the dates for inspection and completion of the building have moved to the end of August. It has been quite frustrating, to say the least, that work has proceeded so close to the start of the school year! But our contractors have made substantial progress on open items since the Board meeting two weeks ago, and we remain optimistic that we will meet this deadline and have new spaces available for the coming school year. Again, all of the spaces that were available last year will still be available due to the previously mentioned Certificate of Occupancy.

We did receive the unfortunate news that the manufacture of the serving line for the cafetorium was delayed. It is expected that this item will arrive in October. Having the serving line in place is a requirement for using the new kitchen space, so we will not be able to provide hot lunches for students until November. However, our food service provider, Whitsons, is working with us to set up a pre-order system for students to get cold lunch options such as sandwiches or salads. More information will be sent in the coming days.

The delay in the arrival of the serving line will likely result in the District obtaining a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy rather than a full Certificate. The temporary certificate will still allow us to use the cafetorium as well as the other new spaces currently under construction. While our new kitchen is otherwise complete and ready for operation, we will have to have a follow up inspection and certification of the space once the serving line is in.

The site work, including the new bus driveway, will be the last part of the construction project to be completed. Work in this area will continue into the school year but won't impact the operation of the school building. Arrival and dismissal procedures will be the same as they were last year until the new driveway is available and the updated entryway becomes usable.

The Board and I are extremely thankful to Ed Braddick, the fire inspector certified by the NYS Education Department, who has been working with us to make sure our buildings are safe and compliant. Mr. Braddick

visited the school today as a precursor to next week's scheduled inspection. We are optimistic that the new addition will be ready for September 6th!

If there are any changes in the status of our project I will let the community know as soon as possible. I am looking forward to starting the school year with our new spaces!

Sincerely,
Colin M. Byrne, Superintendent of Schools