



Bulletin Board

Middle Country Central School District

ISSUE I OF DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Bond Referendum Completion IMPROVEMENTS AT EVERY BUILDING, EVERY AREA

In 2014, the Middle Country School community supported a bond referendum to help support our schools. The results are clear: Every facet of life in Middle Country Schools has improved.

The November 2014 bond referendum, approved by voters, had many goals and objectives. In this newsletter, we would like to provide the community with an update on the enormous amount of work completed over these past eight years and how successful we have been in completing those goals. Please read through the pages of this newsletter and visit our website *through the following QR codes* for additional photos and information. Some of the most critical improvements include:



Board of Education Trustee Deborah Mann-Rodriguez visits children at the beautiful new playground at North Coleman Road Elementary School.

WINDOWS, DOORS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This bond provided funds for the installation of energy-efficient windows and new interior and exterior doors at all school buildings. In total, roughly 7,300 windows and more than 2,500 doors were replaced Districtwide, providing not only additional comfort for students and staff, but also savings on future energy bills.



LIBRARIES, MEDIA CENTERS, TECHNOLOGY

Technology is not a luxury in modern education; it is an absolute necessity. The bond allowed for the completion of a Districtwide transformation of its libraries into state-of-the-art media centers, Smart Board installations to every District classroom, as well as many critical technology upgrades that for the most part go unseen, including key network switch/infrastructure upgrades and completion of Stage 2 of our WiFi rollout. Stage 2 blanketed the entire District with WiFi coverage.



PLAYGROUNDS, CAFETERIAS, ENTRANCEWAYS AND GYMNASIUMS

This bond addressed all relevant areas outside of the classroom as well, with many schools receiving new, accessible playgrounds, redesigned cafeterias and the construction of new gyms and athletics complexes at both high schools as well as renovated gym spaces at all other District schools.



To the Community: A Special Thank You

If this newsletter were a fable, the moral would be crystal clear: Every public school district depends on the support and enthusiasm of the community. Certainly, Middle Country School District is no different. In supporting the work detailed in this newsletter—and your continuing support of our School District—the Middle Country community, including those with students in our schools and without—stepped up to defend public education and safeguard our children’s future. We simply cannot thank you enough. What we can do, however, is promise you that your support is noticed and not taken lightly. We pledge to continue to provide our community’s children with all the support and tools they need to succeed.

Sincerely,

The Middle Country Board of Education

A DISTRICTWIDE PROJECT

The 2014 Bond Referendum Impacted Nearly Every Facet of the Middle Country School District

Here are just some of the works completed as a result of our bond referendum:

OVER 7,000 ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINDOWS

Good windows help make a home energy efficient, and the same is true for the classroom. Windows in all of the District's classrooms and facilities have been replaced with brand new, energy efficient models that are safe, secure and will greatly reduce energy loss. Pictured are Board of Education Trustees Kathleen Walsh (left) and Arlene Barresi (right) with students in front of new District windows.



NEW SCHOOL ENTRANCEWAYS DISTRICTWIDE

They say first impressions are the most important. That is just one reason we are so excited about the beautiful new entranceways at the Bicycle Path Pre-K/K/Kindergarten Center and Unity Drive Pre-K/K/Kindergarten Center as well as the Stagecoach and Jericho elementary schools. Providing an aesthetically pleasing and weather secure walkway for all, the new entrances—funded through our bond referendum—truly make a great first impression for all students, staff and visitors. Pictured is Board of Education Trustee Doreen Feldmann at the Jericho Elementary School entranceway.



NEW CAFETERIA AT NEW LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For elementary schools, a cafeteria is often so much more than a place to have lunch. Take the new cafeteria at New Lane Elementary School—constructed as part of our bond work—for example. Recently, the cafeteria was the site of a special presentation of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* by Newfield High School students. With hardly any modifications, the New Lane cafeteria was transformed into a theater for children to enjoy this magical visit. The cafeteria really is a special place at an elementary school, and no longer do New Lane students need to eat lunch in their classrooms. Reviews of the students who are using the new New Lane cafeteria are all positive. Noted Middle Country School District Board Trustee Arlene Barresi, "It is an amazing renovation, and the kids are all extremely happy!"



BEAUTIFUL NEW PLAYGROUNDS ACROSS THE DISTRICT. EUGENE AUER INSPIRED BY TWO INCREDIBLE STUDENTS!

As parents know by now: Playgrounds do not look like they used to. Truth is: They are much better now! Safer, more intuitive and much more appealing to look at, modern playgrounds are truly a marvel of design. Children at Eugene Auer and North Coleman Road elementary schools are able to enjoy these wonderful play centers during recess, and we know firsthand that they could not be happier. And one of the coolest things about this playground project was that it was partially inspired by students!

Tyler Accardi, a fourth-grade student at Eugene Auer, read a Scholastic News article about a handicapped/wheelchair-accessible playground. Tyler and his brother Nick are both in wheelchairs, so Tyler wrote a letter to Dr. Gerold asking if the District could provide an accessible playground for them and for others in the community with similar needs. Dr. Gerold coordinated efforts that resulted in the construction of an addition to our playground here at Eugene Auer, which is wheelchair accessible. The entire student body was excited for this project and happy that Nick and Tyler would be able to join them on the playground during recess. The playground addition provides for additional activities for Tyler and Nick, but is also available to all students and allows for a wider range of choices when students are using the playground. Here, Middle Country School District Board Trustee Dawn Sharrock visits children at the new playground at Eugene Auer Elementary School.



NEW COLLEGE-LEVEL GYMS AT BOTH HIGH SCHOOLS

The important role of physical health in a public education curriculum can hardly be overstated. Our students need to be taught how to make smart decisions for their health; how to work collaboratively and effectively as a team; and how to lead active, dynamic lifestyles. Only if these critical values are instilled can students unlock the academic potential that is fostered in the classroom.

Therefore, a safe, modern and comfortable environment to conduct physical education is paramount. And thanks to our bond referendum, the students and student-athletes have incredible new athletic complexes at both Centereach and Newfield high schools to train, play sports and work together! Pictured is Board of Education Trustee John DeBenedetto with a handful of Centereach athletes.

STATE-OF-THE-ART HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND MEDIA CENTERS

The library is the centerpiece of the school and a widely recognized symbol of learning and study. One of the most exciting undertakings of the work completed because of the bond referendum was the reimagining of the libraries at Newfield and Centereach high schools into modern-date media centers. Open and quiet spaces—equipped with all the features and technology of 21st-century instruction—are wonderful tools for high school students. Pictured here is Middle Country School District Board Trustee Robert Feeny with students at the new Newfield High School library.



NEW LIFE SKILLS SUITES COMPLETED AT DAWNWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

As a result of the most recent bond, two new Life Skills suites were completed at Dawnwood Middle School. Each of the suites have been modified to incorporate a sensory room attached to the classroom, which is specifically designed for students on the autism spectrum. Suites have also had additional storage space built in and office space to accommodate occupational therapists and physical therapists. These Life Skills suites have been a tremendous benefit to the students and staff who have engaged with them! Pictured to the right is Board of Education Trustee Denise Haggerty with a student in a Life Skills suite.



INCREDIBLE NEW HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIAS

The student café at Newfield High School is truly a sight to see. Indistinguishable from any restaurant one might find in town, the new facility also mirrors those constructed at Centereach High School and the District's middle schools. These new cafeterias afford students access to healthy and diverse foods. Pictured alongside students in the new café is Board of Education President Kristopher Oliva.



DISTRICTWIDE EXPANSION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES

Across the Middle Country Central School District, our bond referendum allowed for the expansion and improvement of instructional space at all grade levels. These renovations and improvements included:

- Elementary school science exploration (STEM) classroom renovations
- Elementary outdoor classroom fixtures and improvements
- Elementary gymnasium updates
- Elementary classroom restroom, classroom sink, and classroom ceiling updates
- Classroom and cafeteria desks and seating replacements
- Renovations to open classroom/clusters
- Elementary orchestra/music room updates
- Secondary band room renovations



The Centerreach and Newfield High School Robotics Teams

- Secondary science room renovations
- Secondary consumer science and family and consumer sciences classroom renovations
- Secondary art room updates
- Updating antiquated spaces into new classroom space
- Secondary music, ensemble and art room renovations

In this newsletter we have reviewed just a small sampling of the many improvements made across the District as a result of the 2014 bond referendum. For more information, please scan the QR code at right:

