



SEAFOORD EDUCATION *Spotlight*

www.seaford.k12.ny.us

FALL 2025

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS GET SOME TLC FACILITY UPGRADES ENHANCE ALL FOUR SCHOOLS

Capital improvements to infrastructure took place across the district this summer, enhancing both indoor and outdoor spaces for students. The projects were funded through voter-approved capital reserve fund expenditures and budget appropriations.

One of the largest projects was the replacement of the roof at Seaford Middle School. This work was approved by voters in May 2024 and included all areas of the building. The gymnasium was also renovated with the removal of the old ceiling tiles to create an open loft-style look. Additionally, the old partition wall was removed, the ceiling beams and walls were

painted, and new lighting fixtures were installed.

The middle school library was modernized from top to bottom. Upgrades included new bookshelves, ceiling and lighting, flooring and a complete paint job. The library also features flexible seating with the addition of new furniture. Students can choose from multiple seating options ranging from high tables and chairs to soft benches.

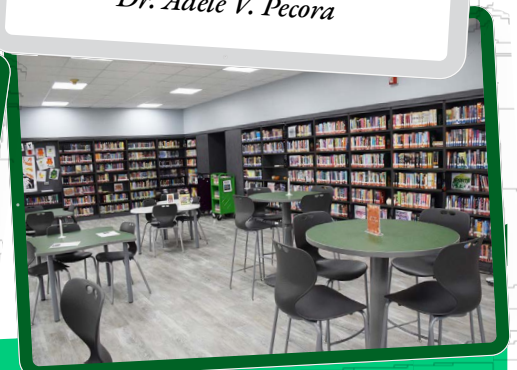
Seaford High School's underclassman cafeteria was overhauled this summer with a new ceiling, lighting, flooring, furniture and decor. It mimics the work previously done to the upperclassman cafeteria.



"Our projects have transformed learning spaces across all four schools, from modernized libraries and cafeterias to safer playgrounds and renovated gymnasiums. These improvements, made possible by our community's support, create welcoming environments where students can thrive. This work demonstrates our shared dedication to providing the best possible educational experience for our students."

*Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Adele V. Pecora*

(continued on Page 2)



(continued from Page 1)

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS GET SOME TLC

FACILITY UPGRADES ENHANCE ALL FOUR SCHOOLS

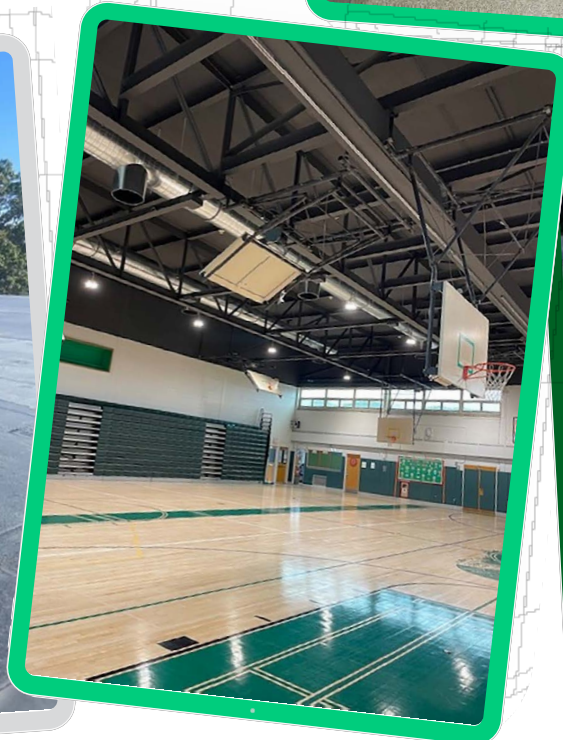
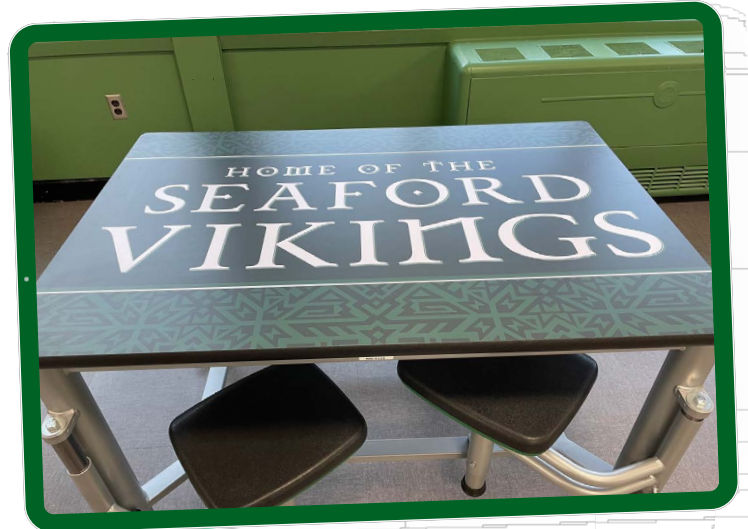
Last spring, the high school unveiled the Nordic Nook café, accessible from the upperclassman cafeteria and created from space that was once a faculty lunchroom. The bright and airy eatery gives students more options with an array of beverages and treats that are different from the regular cafeteria menu. Offerings include coffee, tea and smoothies, pastries and grab-and-go salads and sandwiches.

First-floor student bathrooms were fully renovated at Seaford Harbor Elementary School. Located near the cafeteria, the spaces were reconfigured and include

new flooring, partitions, plumbing fixtures and wall tiles.

At Seaford Manor Elementary School, the old wood chip base was removed from the playground and replaced with a padded turf base. The change improves safety for children using the outdoor play space. Cement work was completed near the comfort station at the high school to provide a place for picnic table seating.

Next summer, the district plans to create an outdoor learning area in the high school courtyard. The new space is part of a larger project to address drainage issues.



New Administrators Join Central Leadership Team



Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Rhonda Meserole, a familiar face to Seaford, returned this summer as the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. She previously held the position from 2020 to 2023 and was in Sayville the past two years.

Ms. Meserole, a Certified Public Accountant, was a partner in an accounting firm that specialized in governmental auditing before moving to school finance. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Hofstra University along with a Master's Degree and Advanced Certificate in Educational Administration from LIU Post. Ms. Meserole completed her administrative internship in the Half Hollow Hills School District.

Executive Director for Humanities

Following a 20-year educational career, Riana DiPalma joins Seaford as the new Executive Director for Humanities. In her role, she will oversee the English language arts, social studies, world language and English as a New Language programs from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Ms. DiPalma began her career in 2005 as an English and theater teacher at the Brooklyn School for Music & Theatre. Most recently, she was the district chairperson of English and Libraries in the Northport-East Northport School District. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Northwestern University, a Master's Degree in Educational Theater and Secondary English teaching from New York University, a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Organization from Teachers College Columbia University and an Advanced Certificate in Educational Leadership from the College of Staten Island.



Executive Director for STEM and Instructional Technology

Dr. Nicole Culella came to Seaford in February as the new Executive Director for STEM and Instructional Technology. She previously was in the Mineola School District for nine years as an instructional leader K-12, High School Principal and, most recently, District Coordinator of Career, Community and STEAM Opportunities.

In Seaford, she oversees several academic programs including computer science, math and science, as well as the elementary LIFT programs. Dr. Culella holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's Degree in Structural Engineering from Cooper Union, a Master's Degree in Biomedical Engineering from Columbia University, a Master's Degree in Math Education from Pace University, a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from The College of Saint Rose and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Russell Sage College.

Board of Education Welcomes Student Representatives

There's a new face at Board of Education meetings this year, as the district has added an Ex Officio Student Member. Seaford High School senior Matthew Kind provides updates on student achievements, community service projects, upcoming events and more at the twice-monthly meetings. Junior Michael Kofod serves as the alternate student member.

Matthew is the president of the Class of 2026, and Michael is president of the Class of 2027. They were both sworn in at the Board of Education's reorganization meeting on July 9.

In addition to leading the senior class, Matthew is a member of the Athletic Leadership Team, Best Buddies, National Honor Society and the Shared Decision-Making Committee, and plays

on the varsity football and baseball teams. He is also the Class of 2026 valedictorian and a National Merit Semifinalist. Michael is involved in student government and plays football, basketball and lacrosse. They both attended Seaford Harbor Elementary School.

"It is truly an honor to become the Ex Officio Student Member of the Board of Education," Matthew said. "I am so incredibly excited to represent the student community here at Seaford, and I am prepared to advocate for and speak on behalf of my classmates."

Board of Education trustees are welcoming them with open arms.

"We are excited to have Matthew and Michael as Ex Officio Student



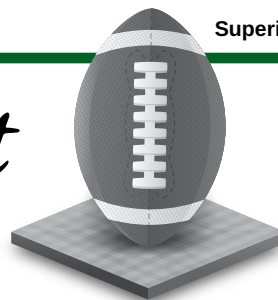
board members," Board President Lisa Herbert said. "We know that they will offer a relevant and fresh student-body perspective and will add great value to the Board. We look forward to their student reports at our regular Board meetings and are looking forward to working with them."

Postal Patron Local
Seaford Union Free School District

Board of Education: Lisa Herbert, *President* • Trisha Matulewicz, *Vice President*
Jimmy Chwe, *Trustee* • Heather Umhafer, *Trustee* • Melissa Whidden, *Trustee*

Dr. Adele V. Pecora
Superintendent of Schools

A Picture Perfect **HOMECOMING**



On a gorgeous fall afternoon, Seaford students, parents and community members lined the streets for the annual homecoming parade, then filled the bleachers to watch the Vikings take on the Lynbrook Owls. They certainly were not disappointed, as Seaford had a dominating 49-28 victory.

The parade featured Board of Education trustees, administrators and teachers, the marching band, cheerleaders, class banners, dance club, homecoming court, middle

school and elementary school banners, youth groups and more. The grand marshals this year were members of Association of the Retired Teachers of Seaford.

Halftime featured performances by the cheerleaders and dance club as well as the marching band show, "Seaford Goes to the Movies." Matt Kind and Mia Leggio were crowned king and queen with Robert Jeranek, Connor Murphy, Kayla Martell and Brianna Sidoti rounding out the homecoming court.

