

NORTH GREENBUSH COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT

48 North Greenbush Road, Unit B • Troy, New York 12180 • Phone (518) 283-6748

January 16, 2020

Dear Residents:

On March 4, 2020, residents of the North Greenbush Common SD community will vote on a proposition to authorize a \$3,705,000 capital project that includes a 3.2 acre land purchase, a building addition and the restoration of the Little Red School House.

The proposed land purchase and capital project is designed to preserve the North Greenbush CSD at a time of rapid residential development and unprecedented enrollment growth projections. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously during its January 15th meeting to hold this special vote – the district's largest and most significant capital project proposal since the school was built in 1861.

As part of the proposition, residents will be asked to vote on the purchase of land from the LaSalle Institute, a long-time neighbor and school partner, to support the site expansion and building addition. Last summer, the Board of Trustees entered into a contract with LaSalle for the land purchase, contingent on voter approval.

The proposed project would:

- Address needed repairs and restoration of the interior and exterior of the Little Red building (due to the building's historic nature and aged infrastructure);
- Build a new 4,000 square foot addition providing additional classroom and office space. This space would allow the district to return to K-2 operations and to deliver activities and supports not possible in the current one room schoolhouse setting;
- Relocate the driveway entrance/exit away from Route 4 to South Drive for safety and access purposes;
- Build a new dedicated parking lot and bus loop;
- Move the district office to the school site for safety, convenience, and cost savings; and,
- Create a new fenced-in playground and field area.

If approved by voters, the project would begin bidding and construction in the fall with the goal of occupancy in September 2021. The cost of this project would be financed through the establishment of a debt service fund and the issuing of bonds. The project would have no impact to the current tax rate as additional property taxes (collected on new residential units) would allow the district to set aside funds annually to pay for capital expenses.

The school district has studied enrollment and financial trends and projections over the past several years. The proposed land purchase and building project would allow us to expand our capacity to meet the needs of educating a growing number of students in addition to repairing and restoring a school originally built 159 years ago.

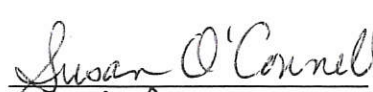
Over the past several years, we indicated that residential growth posed new educational and financial challenges for our small school district. As you know, the Town of North Greenbush has approved a series of residential developments, including at least 248 additional town homes and 22 single-family homes.

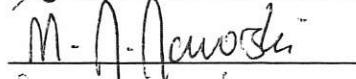
A comprehensive study convened by the Board projected an influx of new students over the next several years. However, the district does not have the classroom space to respond to these enrollment increases. We are also aware of capacity concerns with our school partners as their communities grow and their available classroom space becomes more limited.

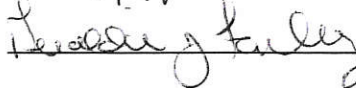
The proposed project provides our Little Red School district with a window to create new space that meets these challenges while preserving it for the future. Thank you to our Community Advisory Committee members for volunteering their time to help shape our efforts. This group – comprised of parents, community members and staff – provided the Board of Trustees with critical feedback since September 2019.

The school district has scheduled a public meeting on January 28th at 7:00PM at LaSalle Institute. We would like to invite all school district residents to this important meeting. Prior to the vote, on March 4th, we will distribute a newsletter in mid-February and hold a Public Hearing on February 25th to provide additional information. We will continue to post updated information online at www.northgreenbushcommon.org. Please call the district office with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

 Board President

 Board Vice President

 Board Member