

NORTH GREENBUSH COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

August 14, 2019

Dear Residents:

The North Greenbush Common School District Board of Trustees recently entered into a contract with the LaSalle Institute for the purchase of 3.2 acres of land surrounding the Little Red School House, pending voter approval later this year.

The school district is considering a presentation of a two-part referendum vote in mid-November—1) for the purchase of this property and 2) a capital improvement project to build additional classroom space and to repair and protect the integrity of the Little Red School House. At its July 24 meeting, the Board approved a contract with the Phinney Design Group for architectural and engineering work for this project.

The option to purchase land and the hiring of an architect comes after the school board convened a comprehensive study of enrollment and financial trends and projections beginning last year. The formal study projected an influx of 28 new students due to residential growth over the next several years (including five that have already enrolled). A copy of the initial study was posted on our website in August, 2018.

The 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 our school originally built in 1861 and preserving it for another 158 years.

The capital project being considered would:

- add new classroom space allowing us to return to K-2 operations again;
- address repairs and improvements to the interior and exterior of the Little Red building;
- move the district office across the street to our school site for convenience, safety and cost savings;
- increase the parking area available for buses and parents/guardians; and,
- improve the playground and field areas (the district does not own the current property we have been using all of these years).

As you know, the Town of North Greenbush has experienced significant residential growth over the past several years - and is projected to continue this growth into the future. The district does not currently have the classroom space to respond to these enrollment increases.

While Little Red has averaged 19 students (in a building with an enrollment capacity of 23-24 students) over the past eight years, last year's enrollment increased to 27 students. This resulted in the district working with parents to arrange for 4 of our students to attend one of our partner schools for Kindergarten and 1st Grade (which also resulted in the district having to pay tuition for 4 students over a two-year period).

To date, the school district is aware of 248 additional town homes and 22 additional single-family homes that will be occupied over the next few years. We are also aware of capacity concerns with our school choice partners as their communities grow and their classroom space becomes more limited.

Looking ahead, the Board of Trustees will continue to collect and review information on enrollment/financial trends and the implications for our district.

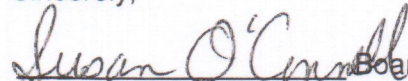
We anticipate that the town may consider additional development proposals due to the desirability of our location, reputation of our community and availability of land. However, as more properties come onto the tax rolls, there will be more people sharing in the increases in the tax levies, which will help to stabilize the tax rate (or the amount you actually pay in taxes each year).

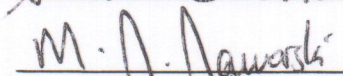
The school district is establishing a community advisory committee to assist the Board of Trustees in providing our community with information on a regular basis, including the scheduling of public information sessions in the fall.

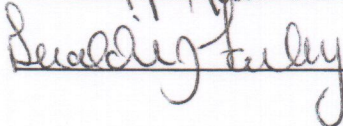
While we recognize that change may cause anxiety for some, we also recognize the need to effectively plan for this growth. As more people look to North Greenbush as a place to raise a family, we will work to accommodate this increase in student enrollment and welcome our newest residents into a community we're proud to call home.

We will keep you posted on our planning process, including the scheduling of meeting dates and times. Please check our district website (northgreenbushcommon.org) as we will continue to post updates throughout this process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

 Board President

 Board Vice President

 Board Member

cc: LTC Joseph Raczkowski, Principal LaSalle Institute