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The Rye City School District
411 Theodore Fremd Avenue 100S
Rye, NY 10580
914-967-6100
www.ryeschools.org

Postal Customer
Rye, NY 10580

Board of Education
Laura M. Slack, President
Ray Schmitt, Vice President
Karen Belanger
Kendall Egan
Edward M. Fox
Katy Keohane Glassberg
Joshua C. Nathan

Superintendent of Schools
Edward J. Shine, Ed.D.

FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE

Voting Information

Where to Vote

There is only one polling place, the Rye Middle School gymnasium. Please follow the parking instructions of security personnel.

Who May Vote

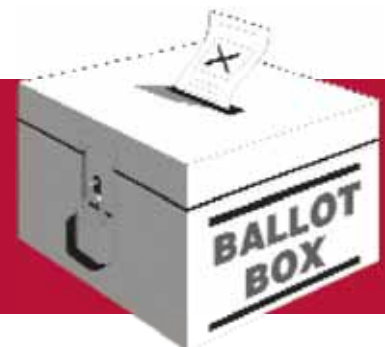
All Rye City School District residents who are registered voters are eligible to vote. Registered voters must be, by law, 18 years of age, a United

States citizen, and a resident of the Rye City School District for at least 30 days preceding March 13. You may register with the District until February 28, after which you can register with the County up to five business days prior to the day of the election at the Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains.

Absentee Ballots

If you are not in town during polling

hours, you may vote by absentee ballot. Ballot applications are available on the district's website: www.ryeschools.org. Applications are also available at the District Office, 411 Theodore Fremd Avenue Suite 100 South Lobby. An application must be filed before a ballot may be obtained. Ballots must be returned no later than 5:00 PM on March 13 to be counted.



Bond Vote

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Rye Middle School Gymnasium

Addressing the Enrollment Crunch

Vote on March 13
at Rye Middle School
(3 Parsons Street)

Visit the District Website
www.ryeschools.org and click
“**Capital Project Central**” at the
top of the main homepage to
view the latest bond
presentations and materials.



The Middle School/High School building is already at capacity, with 700 more students than there were in 1996. Enrollment continues to grow, and class sizes will increase as well without the additional space that this bond would provide.

Changes the Board Has Made

Reduced Bond by \$3.6 Million

- Revised bond cost is \$16,350,000 (December bond cost was \$19,996,000)
- Project scope narrowed to focus on additional classrooms and science upgrades

Planned for Other Facilities Work

- Renovations to four bathrooms will still be completed this summer out of the 2011-12 operating budget
- The Board has committed \$500,000 from reserves for facility upgrades and repairs in the 2012-13 budget

Controlled Tax Increases

- \$2 million from reserves used in the 2012-13 budget, with expectations for additional reduction in reserves in subsequent years will preserve class size and maintain educational programs for students.

WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS...

Class sizes in the 30s are expected. Here is a glimpse at some of the largest projections at the High School for 2015-16:

Course	Smallest Projected Class Size	Largest Projected Class Size	Median
English 10 RH	32	36	34
Global 10 RH	32	40	36
Chemistry H	27	35	31
Spanish 10	30	37	34

Message from Board of Education President *Laura Slack*

Our District enrollment is now larger than it has ever been, and it is projected to continue to grow. It has already increased from 2,202 K-12 students in 1996 to 3,235 in 2011.

Larger elementary school classes will move through the Middle School/High School building, which is already over capacity and is of critical concern. In 1996, the enrollment in grades 6-12 was 972. Based on current elementary enrollments, the Middle School/High School projection for

2020-21 is 1,923, a 98% increase. Additional classrooms would enable us to maintain reasonable class sizes and the same level of educational programs and services at the middle and high schools that we now provide.

We must proceed now so that we have enough time to add sufficient classroom space for students in the two schools for the September 2014 opening of school.

The other important issue we must address is that of our

outdated science facilities. Science is an essential component of our educational program, and students need standard science laboratories that support today's curriculum requirements.

This bond referendum responds to both the space and science needs through the proposed addition of 12 new science labs and conversion of 7 current labs to 9 general instruction classrooms.

The Board seeks your approval of this reduced bond on March 13.



**Revised Bond Cost: \$16,350,000
\$3.6 million Reduction**

If this bond is passed, the tax increase to the average household with an assessed value of \$26,800 will be:

- 2012-13: <\$2
- 2013-14: \$250

Taxes for debt will not increase in subsequent years as a result of the bond.

Important Facts About the Bond...

- School planning consultant Dr. Paul M. Seversky reported in 2011 that the Middle School/High School building is at capacity and that there is a need for 10 to 16 additional classrooms.
- This project would result in a net gain of 10 classrooms:
 - +12 science classrooms
 - +2 general instruction classrooms
 - 4 portable classrooms
 - +10
- In order to lower the cost of the bond, the Board trimmed it back to focus solely on additional classrooms.
- A 2014 completion is still realistic if this bond is approved on March 13.

- The actual construction of the classrooms, halls and corridors is estimated to be \$302 a square foot and \$357 a square foot, with all other construction costs included. For a price comparison, real estate sales for the first three quarters of 2011 in Rye indicated approximately \$500 a sq. ft.
- 97.5% of the bond cost is associated with increasing and enhancing classroom inventory. The remaining 2.5% will be used for other upgrades that are New York State Education Department requirements and new fire code requirements
- Middle School/High School enrollment has expanded by over 700 students since

1996. There were 174 students in the graduating class of 2007, compared with the current senior class of 234 students and the projected 2017 senior class of 261 students. Enrollment will increase even more, by at least 242 students that are already in the elementary schools, which the Middle School and High School do not have the capacity for.

- Science facilities date back to the '60s and '70s, and limit students' lab experiences. The antiquated labs require many teachers to conduct demonstrations rather than providing students with opportunities to participate in experiments.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Q. There was talk of large tax increases in the budget over the next five years. Is this true?

A. No, it is not true. In the information shared with the community prior to the December 13 vote, the Board of Education discussed a report from the Board's Finance Committee looking out five years to the worst case scenario. The purpose of this report was to show, among other things, how the new tax cap would negatively impact future budgets without action by the Board to create efficiencies and streamline spending. However, the Board has always intended on taking measures to control budget growth and tax increases. In addition, annual budget proposals must be approved by a simple majority of the voters, and to go beyond the tax levy cap of 2%, a supermajority of 60% of the voters must approve the proposal. The Board of Education cannot impose tax increases on the community. Furthermore, the Board is committed to ongoing streamlining of expenditures to ensure that future tax increases are reasonable.

Q. You are projecting 12 new science classrooms at Rye High School. Why build science classrooms, and how are they different from general education classrooms?

A. Laboratory exploration is an integral part of any quality science education program, and the current science classrooms are so badly outdated that, in many cases, they prevent a full teaching of the curriculum. Science classrooms must be larger than general education classrooms because of the student engagement required in the learning process. Each classroom has 14 sinks [for a total of 168 sinks], gas is provided at each work station, a fume hood must be included in each classroom and emergency shower stations are required for safety.

Q. With the construction of new science classrooms, will students and student learning be disrupted?

A. The District's goal is always to minimize negative influences on the teaching and learning process. All of the new classroom construction will be adjacent to the current school building. The renovation of current science classrooms and the connecting hallway will take place during the summer. There will be some disruption to on-site parking. However, the administration will work with city officials and the Rye police department to control and minimize traffic and pedestrian safety issues.

Q. What will happen to the items that have been deleted from the December 13 bond?

A. The Board of Education will need to set some priorities for those remaining projects and provide for future funding. The renovation of four restrooms will be completed this summer out of 2011-12 operating budget funds.

Q. Is the enrollment growth a bubble?

A. No. Enrollment has historically exceeded projections. For example, in September of 2011, K-12 enrollment exceeded the projected enrollment by 38 students. In September 2010, enrollment exceeded projections by 40. The latest enrollment projections show enrollment leveling off at about 3,500 students. There has been sustained growth at every level over a continued period of time. The success of our schools, and the attractiveness of our community, continues to appeal to new families.

Q. What due diligence did the Board use in defining this bond proposal?

A. In 2007, after many years of enrollment growth, the Board enlisted the professional consultation of Dr. Paul M. Seversky, a school planning consultant, to analyze data, observe conditions, identify the issues, and determine needs at the Middle School/High School building. After studying the enrollment projections, visiting the middle school and high school, and speaking with administrators and teachers, Dr. Seversky recommended that the administration recapture instructional space within the building for classroom use. In 2008 and 2009 the Board approved plans to implement Dr. Seversky's recommendations, and building modifications were made, along with a plan to add four portable classrooms. In 2011, with enrollment continuing to grow, Dr. Seversky provided updated analysis. He concluded that the middle school and high school were at capacity and there was a need for 10 to 16 more classrooms to address increasing enrollment. The Board verified the need prior to recommending this project.

More Efficient Voter Process!

More space • More voting machines • More poll workers • More parking