
Update from the Superintendent

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 3:31 PM



Dear Tuckahoe Community,

With our students and staff comfortably settled back into their school routines after winter recess, I thought it would be a good time to provide you with updates on several important initiatives in our district.

In January, a dedicated group of 23 people representing the key stakeholders in our school community volunteered their time to serve on the strategic plan core team. Over the course of two days, the core team thoroughly reviewed the feedback from nearly 1,200 needs assessment surveys, analyzed student performance data, and then thoughtfully created four goals to guide the development of our district's 2019-2022 strategic plan. Our proposed strategic goals on *Social Emotional Learning*, *Diverse Learners*, *Contemporary Teaching/Learning*, and *Professional Learning* were formally presented to the Board of Education on February 4th (click [here](#) to view the strategic goals Board presentation). The action plan development process was launched yesterday, and will continue for the next three months. We plan to present the final version of our district's strategic plan to the Board of Education at the June 3rd Workshop Meeting.

As you may already know, the WEC capital project plan was approved by NYSED three months ago. On February 11th, the Board of Education awarded the bid for general construction to Bertussi Contracting, Inc. The second phase of the plan, which includes a new turf athletic field and security vestibule at TMS/THS and additional infrastructure projects, has been submitted to NYSED. Approval for this portion of the capital project is expected shortly. Last week, I held an initial planning meeting with our architects, project manager, engineers, general contractor, and all subcontractors. I left this meeting reassured that our capital project is moving forward on schedule with the steel frame assembly for the WEC second story scheduled to begin immediately after the school year ends. I will keep you apprised of our progress with construction.

We continue to focus on safety and security, and have made several recent improvements to the overall physical security and communication systems in our schools. The administrative set up of *Anonymous Alerts* is nearly complete and we expect to activate this new safety reporting system by the end of March. The Building Safety Team and District-wide Safety Team reviewed the new TMS/THS Main Entrance security vestibule architectural designs prior to our submission to NYSED for approval. We expect to complete this project by early fall. I have been collaborating with the Town of Eastchester on a proposed partnership to implement a SRO (School Resource Officer) model in our schools for the 2019-20 school year. This proposal as well as several educational program enhancements aligned with our strategic goals is being considered by the Board of Education through our budget development process.

I invite you to join us on Monday, March 4th at 7:30pm in the TMS/THS Library for the initial public presentation of our 2019-20 proposed budget. Additional budget presentations are scheduled for the March 18th and April 8th Board of Education Meetings, and the public Budget Vote will be held on May

21st. I encourage you to stay informed and welcome your questions and participation throughout this process.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of our students who participated in senior exit interviews earlier this month. I was deeply impressed by their thoughtful and insightful suggestions for the continued growth and improvement of our district. The feedback I received will certainly influence our decisions as we plan for the years ahead.

Very truly yours,

Carl L. Albano
Superintendent of Schools