

# Island Park Union Free School District

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DR. ROSMARIE T. BOVINO  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 27, 2018

Dear Neighbor:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education and administration to make you aware of a discussion that took place at the public Business Meeting held on Feb. 26. Specifically, it concerns the installation of a black chain-link fence (5 feet in height) around the fields at the Lincoln Orens Middle School.

Over the past few years, many parents have expressed concerns for the safety of their children, given the open access to the Lincoln Orens fields from bordering street locations. This includes cars and trucks that have, on numerous occasions, driven onto the fields while school has been in session and children have been outside for recess or physical education. Some homeowners in the area, unaware of these incidents, have expressed opposition to the installation of perimeter fencing because of their concerns that it will detract from the aesthetics, openness and welcoming appearance of the fields and playgrounds.

Students, of course, must be the focus of all that we do as we make every effort to ensure safe and secure facilities in which we can provide a child-centered and well-rounded education. We have done a great deal over the years to secure our buildings' interiors and, more recently, have examined ways to improve outdoor safety. To this end, we installed additional high-definition cameras outside of our two school buildings, which security aides monitor from indoor posts. We also installed new perimeter fencing at the Francis X. Hegarty School as well as fencing in select locations at Lincoln Orens Middle School.

At the Board of Education Business Meeting on March 19 at 7 p.m. in the Stephen L. Foster Auditorium, a presentation and discussion about fencing around the fields of Lincoln Orens Middle School will take place. The Board will make a decision regarding this matter. Interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Rosmarie T. Bovino, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools