

FROM THE DESK OF PHYLLIS ALPAUGH

SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER



REFERENDUM UPDATE ESTABLISHING TIMELINES AND SCHEDULES

During this past month, the referendum focus has been all about establishing "timelines and schedules" that will drive the basis of all our work and construction for the coming months. This involves not only construction and bid deadlines, but also those regarding finance and the timing and method of marketing bonds to acquire the necessary cash to fund all referendum projects. Here is an update of our progress to date.

As already mentioned, much time and effort has been put into establishing the necessary timelines that start with October 2019 and follow through until August 2021, which is the proposed completion date of all designated projects. The proposed schedules were created with input from our own in-house team of myself, Mr. William Stepka, Mr. Mike Klein and assistant, Mr. Tim Yobs as well in conjunction with representatives from Parette-Somjen, our Architects of record who now meet on a regular basis to monitor all referendum actions. As part of the schedule and in preparation of construction projects to come, preliminary school field surveys of existing facilities, soil borings, utility mark-ups, and other related work has already and will continue to take place to confirm details of targeted projects to be undertaken. One of our main concerns for all projects current and future, is to minimize interruptions to the daily school schedule and of course, maintain student safety at all times.

At our November Board of Education meeting following discussion from the previous month, the Board approved the hiring of a construction lawyer, Mr. Dennis McKeever from the law firm of Sciarillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborn to represent the district in all related matters as well as strongly supported the use of the Morris County Improvement Authority to issue the bonds as they have an excellent credit rating and working with them will eliminate the need to get our own credit rating, and thus save the district considerable money. In addition, they approved the district calendar for the 2020-21 school year that designated a later "after Labor Day" start for students to ensure the optimal time for moving the trailers at Lincoln and breaking ground for the new addition.

As many of you have asked, I once again am including a simplified time line for the major projects for your review:

Summer 2020: HVAC- Lincoln, Restrooms & Safety vestibule- Thomas Jefferson, Roofs for both Lincoln & TJ
Relocate temporary trailers at Lincoln & break ground for addition with work to continue throughout the year

Summer 2021: HVAC-Thomas Jefferson, Restrooms & Inside building improvements-Lincoln
Finish up Lincoln addition

Fall 2021: Close out all projects

For additional referendum information, please check our website www.rockboro.org for Board reports and minutes.