



SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Plan Update PHASE TWO and PHASE THREE

November 2019

Message from the Superintendent of Schools

The execution of Phase Two of our Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Plan is well underway. I am pleased to report that both Eli Terry and Philip R. Smith schools remain on schedule and on budget. The district is also fully engaged with the planning stages of Phase Three, Pleasant Valley School. At the October 22nd Board of Education meeting, board members enthusiastically approved the Educational Specifications and budget for Phase Three. Greater detail regarding both Phase Two and Phase Three projects can be found in this newsletter.

It is important that our community is kept informed about the progress of our Ten Year Plan. We also want to ensure that our residents have access to the information they need to make an informed decision at the March 2020 referendum. To that end, I have been meeting with a variety of civic organizations who have requested that I share information with its members. Recently I have presented at South Windsor's Garden Club, Rotary Club, Patriotic Commission, Mom's Club, Public Library, and Women's Club, and others are already scheduled. If your organization would like to host an information session, I would be happy to attend. Requests for presentations can be made through Sara Chamberlain (schamberlain@swindsor.k12.ct.us).

I continue to be heartened by the feedback I hear at the aforementioned civic group meetings. I am proud to live and work in a community that champions public education and makes decisions for the greater good. Thank you for your continued support as we endeavor to complete the entire Ten-Year Plan on time and on budget!

Sincerely,

KATE CARTER

Kate Carter, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



A beautiful rainbow was captured over the Eli Terry building after the storm on the night of the beam signing in August.

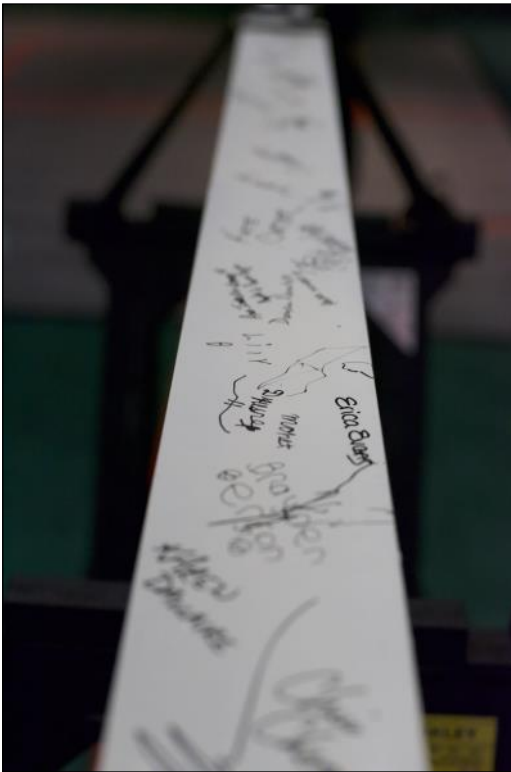
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PHASE TWO BEAM SIGNING

On a stormy mid-August evening, South Windsor Public Schools hosted a Phase Two beam signing celebration for the new Eli Terry and Philip R. Smith schools. The event was held on Thursday, August 22, 2019, at Eli Terry Elementary School. Despite the weather, we were pleased by an impressive turnout by so many families and staff. We were also joined by State Senator Saud Anwar and Representatives Tom Delnicki and Jeff Currey, as well as Town Councilors, Board of Education and Public Building Commission members, and student ambassadors from all four elementary schools. Everyone gathered in the Eli Terry gymnasium to sign the beams that have now been placed in the new Eli Terry and Philip R. Smith buildings.

The ceremonial beam signing event marks another milestone for these Phase Two projects. It is an honor for dignitaries, staff and students to have their signatures forever encased in the new schools. Superintendent Carter thanked town leaders for their support of the ten-year plan and thanked parents and students for their continued dedication to South Windsor Public Schools. The district looks forward to the completion of the projects and the opening of the new schools in August 2020.



Dr. Carter addresses the crowd



Daria Plummer, Support South Windsor Schools Chair, proudly signs one of the beams



Students and parents



Dr. Carter, Board of Education Members and Student Ambassadors



ET Principal, Vincent Federici, watches as students sign the beam



A student leaves her mark



Public Building Commission members, Pat Hankard, Student Ambassadors and Gilbane representative

ORCHARD HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES FIRST PLACE! CBC 2019 PROJECT TEAM AWARDS



On June 11, 2019, the project team for Orchard Hill Elementary School received first place in the 2019 Project Team Award "K-12 Schools" category. The **Connecticut Building Congress**

(CBC) is Connecticut's premier networking organization encompassing owners, engineers, architects, attorneys, general contractors, developers, cost consultants, sub-contractors, suppliers, testing laboratories, etc. Each year, CBC recognizes projects whose team members have met or surpassed goals and achieved higher project quality through this close collaboration. These exemplify project team excellence and represent the best practices in teamwork by project owners, architects, engineers, constructors, tradespeople and suppliers and services providers.

As stated in the award summary, "(t)he highly-anticipated Orchard Hill Elementary School was the first project to be completed under South Windsor's three-phase, ten-year Elementary Facilities Plan. Gilbane and DRA worked cohesively with South Windsor Public Schools, the Town of South Windsor, and Colliers to deliver a state-of-the-art school with a cutting-edge STEM learning experience. The new school, completed on time and \$1M under budget, created a memorable mentoring experience for students and the community while generating excitement for the next phase of the Facilities Plan."

Learn more at: [CBC Website—Award Details](#)

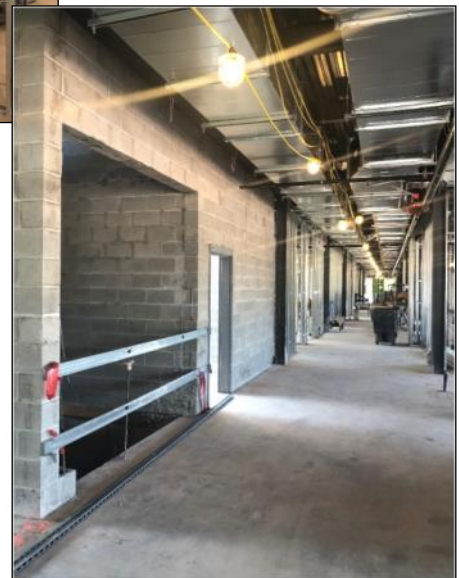
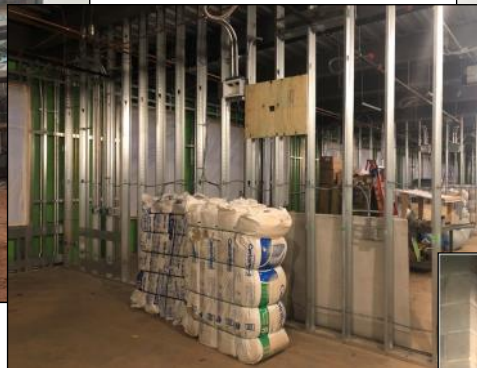




PHASE TWO CONSTRUCTION



— IN PROGRESS



SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Updated enrollment projections were recently provided to the Board of Education by Milone & MacBroom. The blue bars in the chart below reflect projected K-5 enrollment data provided in 2013 for the development of the Ten-Year Plan. By contrast, the green trend line illustrates the actual enrollment since 2013, and the orange line reflects the new enrollment trajectory calculated by demographers in 2019.



PHASE THREE: PLEASANT VALLEY ELEMENTARY



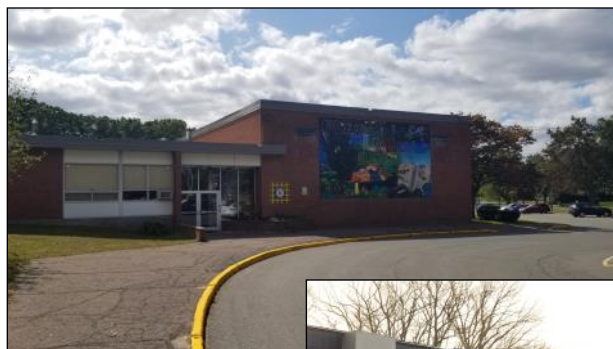
On October 22, 2019, the South Windsor Board of Education approved the Phase Three Educational Specifications (Ed Specs) and a project budget for the new Pleasant Valley Elementary School. The Ed Specs serve as a “roadmap” for school design, and display how the educational program and student enrollments are going to be met in the school facility. The educational specifications outline the series of functional spaces that are planned to meet student and staff needs in a comprehensive school setting (e.g., core classrooms, spaces for art and music, STEM, Special Education, intervention/support services, library/media center, gymnasium, cafeteria, etc.).

If approved through town referendum in March 2020, a new PK-5 school would be constructed on the existing Pleasant Valley site. Pleasant Valley students will remain in the original Pleasant Valley building while their new school is under construction. The Preschool program originally located at the new Orchard Hill School (as part of Phase One) was moved to temporary space at the middle school due to an unexpected surge in K-5 enrollment at Orchard Hill. The Preschool program has been added to the design for Phase Three at Pleasant Valley. A special Community Newsletter will be sent out to residents in late December/early January to provide detailed information regarding this important Phase Three project.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

- Total Project Budget: \$58.5 Million
- Square Footage: 101,288 square feet
- Grades Served: PK-5
- K-5 Enrollment: 696
- POP/IPOP Enrollment: 110
- School opening: August 2023

Construction would begin in winter 2022 and completed in summer 2023. Pleasant Valley students will remain in the original building while their new school is being built.



AGC/CT RECOGNITION

We share this information as the honor represents the work of so many people who have contributed to the success of the Ten-Year Plan.

Dr. Kate Carter, Superintendent of South Windsor Public Schools, was recently named the 2019 "Public Owner of the Year" by Associated General Contractors of Connecticut (AGC/CT) at its annual recognition ceremony held at the Aqua Turf. The Industry Recognition Awards were established to recognize the skills, talents and personal qualities that are the source of the striking achievements of prominent Connecticut commercial construction professionals over the course of their careers. "Public owner" is an industry term referring to end-users who may represent municipalities, school districts or governmental boards and commissions, recipients of the Public Owners Award are those who "demonstrate leadership, professionalism, and display working practices that reflect AGC's motto of skill, integrity, and responsibility."



Dr. Carter's nomination emanated from a nominating team consisting of individuals from across the construction industry and AGC/CT. John Hawley, Vice President of Gilbane Building Company and President of AGC/CT, shared that Dr. Carter's nomination reflected "the depth and breadth of the school construction program in South Windsor in the last five years, the fact that there was a very proactive community campaign to support it at the ballot box, and Kate's leadership in that effort." John Butts, Executive Director of AGC/CT, commented that "Kate's ability to manage multiple interests within the community and among the designers and contractors to ensure the success - not just of one school construction project, but multiple projects are a big part of the qualities that contributed to her nomination."

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Carter noted her respect and admiration for the project professionals, citing their role in the success of South Windsor's plan. She also noted her commitment to ensuring that students have a greater exposure to career paths associated with the trades, construction and design professions. "This award is a symbol of the hard work of so many people. I have truly enjoyed collaborating with the town's Public Building Commission and with the project professionals whose expertise and dedication have contributed to the success of the district's Ten-Year Plan. I am also grateful for the unwavering support of the town's Board of Education and Town Council, without whom this entire plan would not have been possible."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For the past six years, an impressive number of South Windsor residents have volunteered their time to disseminate information and promote the benefits of the Board of Education's Ten-Year Plan. Prior to each referendum, volunteers work countless hours to send out mailings, make phone calls, and wave to passersby in cold, wintry conditions. Many supporters have chosen to join **Support South Windsor Schools**, a political action referendum committee, which has coordinated these efforts and served as the heart of community outreach on this initiative.



At times we receive calls in the Board of Education offices from citizens wanting to know how to become involved with the school referendum committee. It is important to note that the referendum committee is an organization separate from the South Windsor Board of Education. However, community members interested in learning more about how to join **Support South Windsor Schools** can visit their website (www.supportsouthwindsorschools.org) or their Facebook page (Support South Windsor Schools).

PHASE TWO MILESTONES TO-DATE

Items listed below apply to both Phase Two projects, Eli Terry (ET) and Philip R. Smith (PRS), unless otherwise noted

6/2016	Development of Educational Specifications	1/2018	Schematic Design documents approved by PBC
6/2016	Commencement of Early Site Services	1/2018	Swing space transition meeting held with PRS families
6/2016	Development of Enrollment Analysis and Redistricting Plans	5/2018	SCG applications approved by the state
8/2016	Early Site Services completed	6/2018	Design Development documents approved by PBC
9/2016	Refreshed Elementary Facilities Ten-Year Timeline approved by the Board of Education (BOE)	7/2018	PRS faculty and staff relocated to swing space
10/2016	Educational Specifications approved by BOE	9/2018	Community information session held for neighbors and property abutters
10/2016	Phase Two Project Budgets approved by BOE	9/2018	Meeting held with Eli Terry parents
3/2017	Phase Two Referendum passed by SW residents	9/2018	Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission approvals
3/2017	Public Building Commission (PBC) appointed by Town Council	9/2018	Planning and Zoning Commission approvals
6/2017	Phase Two School Construction Grant (SCG) applications filed with state	11/2018	Revised Ed Specs approved by BOE
7/2017	Moser Pilon Nelson selected by PBC to serve as architect	12/2018	Third Party Code Reviewers appointed by PBC
7/2017	Colliers International selected by PBC to serve as Owner's Representative	1/2019	Final Plans, Specifications and Cost Estimates approved by PBC and BOE
8/2017	Education programming meetings held	1/2019	Philip R. Smith Groundbreaking
10/2017	Gilbane Building Company selected by PBC to serve as Construction Manager	2/2019	Final Plans approved by the state
11/2017	Commissioning Agent selected by PBC	3/2019	Eli Terry Groundbreaking
12/2017	Community public information session held for neighbors and property abutters	3/2019	PRS Demolition complete
		8/2019	Eli Terry and Philip R. Smith Beam Signing

PHASE THREE MILESTONES TO-DATE

Items listed below apply to Phase Three, Pleasant Valley (PV)

6/2019	Development of Educational Specifications
9/2019	Development of Updated Projections
10/2019	Phase Three Educational Specifications and budget approved by BOE
11/2019	Early Site Services



Visit our website to learn more:

www.southwindsorschools.org/elementaryfacilities

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