

Elementary Facilities Master Plan Update

March 2016

Message from the Superintendent of Schools

It has been two years since the citizens of South Windsor voted in favor of constructing a new PK-5 elementary school on the Orchard Hill campus. A great deal of work has been accomplished since the March 2014 referendum, but the most exciting milestone to date was the Groundbreaking Ceremony held on February 20th. Well over 300 people attended the ceremony. Who could have predicted that a winter groundbreaking would have occurred on such a glorious day... sunny and 60 degrees!

I want to thank the students, families, staff, residents and town leaders who took the time to show their support and participate in the celebration. The ceremony proved to be more than just a groundbreaking; the overwhelming attendance, including many residents without children in the school system, exemplified our community coming together for a common purpose and working toward the greater good.

Look inside this edition for a variety of pictures from this historic event. This latest newsletter also highlights other project information, including a community informational meeting for neighbors, favorable bidding results, and changes to the Public Building Commission membership.

Residents passing by the site on Foster Street will notice that site work is well underway and a variety of construction equipment is on the premises. Fourth grade students with a window view from Orchard Hill School have reported that the trucks, cranes and dirt moving activities are very exciting to watch. We are just in the beginning stages of construction and it is anticipated that substantial completion of the project will occur in May 2017. In the meantime, district educators will be working closely with the design team experts to make decisions related to student desks, chairs, furniture, equipment and technology.

I hope this newsletter is helpful to those parents and community members interested in following the progress of Phase One of our Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Master Plan.

Sincerely,

KATE CARTER

Kate Carter, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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Orchard Hill Groundbreaking—February 20, 2016



ORCHARD HILL GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION

The Orchard Hill Elementary groundbreaking was held on Saturday, February 20, 2016. We could not have custom ordered a more beautiful day—who could have predicted sixty degrees in February!

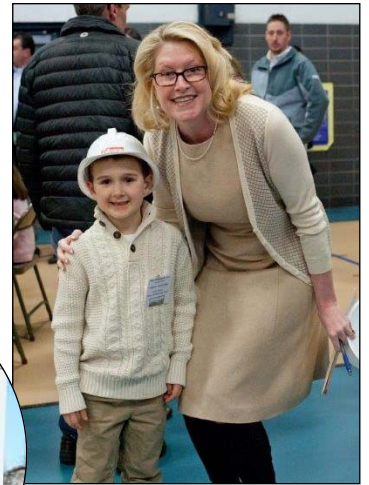
The groundbreaking represented the culmination of activities that have taken place since the town voted in favor of the referendum in March 2014. An estimated 350 people were in attendance to mark this historic occasion. Joining the enthusiastic parents and students were many town and school staff, as well as members of the Public Building Commission, Board of Education and Town Council. Honored dignitaries included Commissioner of Education Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Senator Tim Larson, and State Representatives Bill Aman and Jeff Currey. The team of design professionals from Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc., Gilbane Building Company and Colliers International were also present to take part in this celebration.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kate Carter, kicked off the ceremony at 2:00 p.m. with the introduction of student ambassadors from each of the five elementary schools. These fifteen students stood as an important reminder that the ten-year plan is designed to address the needs of all children in all of our elementary schools.

Board of Education chairman David Joy, Orchard Hill principal Michael Tortora, and community representative Daria Plummer offered different perspectives on the significance of this milestone. Mayor Thomas Delnicki, himself an alum of Orchard Hill, presented a proclamation from the town of South Windsor, officially commemorating “the groundbreaking and beginning of construction of the [new] Orchard Hill Elementary School.” Everyone was invited to sign the Groundbreaking 2016 banner, which will likely become part of a time capsule to commemorate the opening of the new school.

The ceremony concluded with attendees gathering at the groundbreaking site for a spectacular aerial photo, courtesy of Patrick Hankard who overlooked the site from South Windsor Fire Department’s bucket truck. Students and dignitaries took turns posing with ceremonial shovels and hard hats to mark the event.

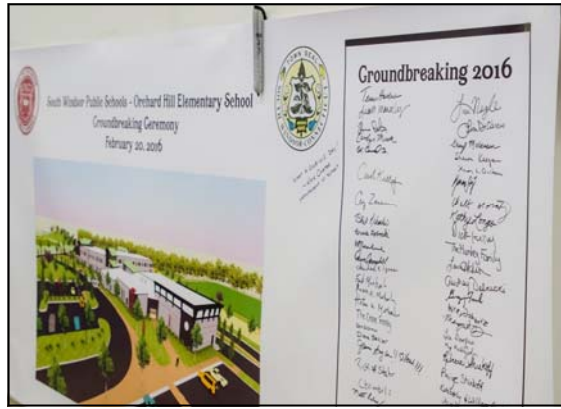
Thank you to everyone who joined us to mark this momentous occasion. This was a truly inspiring event and a great kick-off to the new Orchard Hill Elementary School.





Former PBC Chair Hap Fitts shares the 10-Year Plan with his daughter

Attendees signed the commemorative banner which will be added to an OH time capsule



PBC Chair Phil Koboski and State Representative Bill Aman



Kate Carter, Mike Tortora, Daria Plummer, Tom Delnicki, Phil Koboski and David Joy



State Rep. Jeff Currey, Councilor Saud Anwar, Senator Tim Larson



Director of Facility Operations Patrick Hankard takes an aerial photo of the crowd gathered at the groundbreaking site



Elementary students and principals



Board of Education



Public Building Commission



BOE Staff



Town Council and Town Manager

Town of South Windsor

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Board of Education adopted the Elementary Facilities Ten-Year Master Plan on October 23, 2013; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2013, the Board of Education approved the Educational Specifications for the construction of a new PK-5 elementary school to be built on the Orchard Hill campus; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2014 the South Windsor Town Council approved this project to go to referendum on March 25, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a referendum was approved by the South Windsor voters appropriating and authorizing bonds in the amount of \$33,520,000 for the planning, design, acquisition, construction, equipping and furnishing of a new Orchard Hill Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2014 the Public Building Commission, was designated as the Building Committee for the new Orchard Hill Elementary School project; and

WHEREAS, the South Windsor Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed and endorsed the new Orchard Hill Elementary School project at their March 24, 2015 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the new school will expand opportunities for the children of South Windsor by providing them with a state of the art facility which will promote an engaging and dynamic culture of learning that prepares students to achieve their own individual excellence

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Thomas Debricks, Mayor of the Town of South Windsor, acting on behalf of the Town Council and the residents of South Windsor do hereby congratulate the Board of Education on breaking ground and beginning the construction of the Orchard Hill Elementary School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the South Windsor Town Council thanks the residents of South Windsor for supporting a referendum that made this possible.


 Mayor Thomas Debricks
 Deputy Mayor Meredith, Councilors
 Antxon, Curvill, Haversley, Mosevelley
 Penelton, Wiley and Snyder
 February 20, 2016



PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION

On December 21, 2015, the Town Council appointed Phil Koboski and Matthew Beaulieu to the Public Building Commission. Following these new appointments, the PBC nominated Phil Koboski as Chairman, and Carol Kelley as Vice Chairman.

The two new PBC members are long-time residents of South Windsor, and shared their enthusiasm for being part of this project. Matt Beaulieu expressed, "Upon first hearing about the possibility of new schools being built in town, I knew I wanted to get involved. With my background in architecture, I knew I could add beneficial insight to the forthcoming projects. I look forward to seeing these projects, as well as many others, through to completion."

Phil Koboski shared similar sentiments. "As a Board of Education member, I was able to be a part of the team that pulled the Education Specifications together; now, as a PBC member, I can see the project come to fruition. I think this is an exciting time to be a part of the PBC, and it will only continue as we work through the next three elementary schools."

The PBC typically meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Room 106 at 1737 Main Street. Regular meetings may be cancelled or special meetings scheduled depending on the needs of the project. Questions regarding PBC meetings can be directed to the Clerk of the Public Building Commission, Ann Walsh, at (860) 291-1205.



FAVORABLE BIDDING RESULTS

We are pleased to report that throughout the months of November, December and January, the Orchard Hill project successfully procured the majority of trade contract bid packages for the new school project. The procurement effort concluded in January. The Construction Management team from Gilbane Building Company received over 160 individual bid submissions. The PBC has awarded a majority of the trade contracts as well as materials testing and storm water management review. Gilbane reports that the high number of bids submitted was impressive and very favorable to the project. The outcome of this competitive process allowed the PBC to recapture elements of the project that would otherwise have been eliminated due to budget constraints.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

An informational session was held for interested community members on February 3, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to provide abutters and neighbors information regarding the impending site activity. Members of the project team (which included the architect, owner's representative and construction manager) gave brief presentations and were on hand to answer questions from community members. Members of the Public Building Commission, Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, school district staff, and town staff were present as well. Topics that were covered included:

- Project construction schedule
- Project site logistics
- Site safety
- Communicating with construction managers
- What to expect in the coming weeks

MILESTONES TO-DATE

- 9/2011 Strategic Plan adopted by Board of Education
- 7/2013 School conditions assessed
- 10/2013 Elementary Facilities Plan approved by BOE
- 12/2013 Master Plan presented to Town Council by BOE
- 12/2013 Education Specifications approved by BOE
- 3/2014 PBC appointed by Town Council
- 3/2014 Referendum passed by South Windsor residents
- 6/2014 ED049 Grant Application filed
- 7/2014 Architect selected by PBC
- 8/2014 Owner's Representative selected by PBC
- 9/2014 Education programming meetings held
- 10/2014 Geotechnical site exploration conducted
- 12/2014 Community public Information session held
- 12/2014 Construction Manager selected by PBC
- 1/2015 Surveying work conducted
- 2/2015 Schematic Design documents approved by PBC
- 3/2015 Project reviewed by Planning and Zoning
- 4/2015 Commissioning Agent selected by PBC
- 5/2015 Community public Information session held
- 6/2015 ED049 Grant Application approved by the state
- 7/2015 Office of School Facilities (OSF) Plan Review
- 8/2015 Project approved by Inland Wetlands Agency/ Conservation Commission
- 9/2015 Revisions to Ed Specs approved by BOE
- 11/2015 Final approval of plans and specs
- 11/2015 OSF completes plan review
- 1/2016 Structural contracts awarded by PBC
- 2/2016 Community public information session held
- 2/2016 Groundbreaking Ceremony for new Orchard Hill

SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

David S. Joy, Chairman
Beth Esstman, Vice Chairman
Craig Zimmerman, Secretary
Joseph Durette
Jamie Gamble
Michael Gonzalez
Mary Justine Hockenberry
Phil Koboski
Rick Stahr

Administration

Kate Carter, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Sheryl L. Mortensen, Assistant Superintendent
Colin J. McNamara, Assistant Superintendent
Chris M. Chemerka, Director of Finance & Operations
Patrick Hankard, Director of Facility Operations



PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION

Phil Koboski, Chairman; Carol Kelley, Vice Chairman;
Matthew Beaulieu; Charley Lyons; Matthew Montana;
James Neary; Ed O'Connell

PROJECT PROFESSIONALS

Architect: Drummey Rosane Anderson (DRA)

Owner's Rep: Colliers International

Construction Manager: Gilbane Building Company