



Byram Hills School District SPECTRUM

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Founded 1961  Volume Forty-eight, Number One

Dear Fellow Residents,

On Tuesday, October 6, the Byram Hills Community will be voting on a proposition regarding the expansion and renovation of the district's transportation facility. This special edition of *Spectrum*, along with the materials on our website (www.byramhills.org), are intended to provide you with information regarding the proposed improved transportation facility.

Through a study in 2005-06, the transportation facility was identified as a facility in need of improvement. The materials on our website include the proposed drawings of the facility, some of the history of this project, and the funding proposal. Also on the website is a BobcatTV special that we hope will answer many of your questions about the proposed project.

Careful fiscal planning has enabled the District to bring this proposition to the voters for their consideration with no additional tax impact to our community. The District also expects to be able to generate State building aid on the project and receive a shared services grant from the State. This edition of *Spectrum* provides the details of the finances, dates for informational meetings at our schools, and the dates of tours of the transportation facility, all of which are intended to help provide answers to your questions.

We hope you will contact any district administrator or board member if you have further questions and we urge you to vote on October 6 at H. C. Crittenden Middle School from 6:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining high quality facilities and providing excellent services to our students. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Byram Hills Board of Education
Dr. Eve Rice, President
Mr. Richard Kaplin, Vice President
Dr. Leslie Blum (Cziner), Trustee
Mr. John Grimes, Trustee
Mr. Ira Schulman, Trustee
Mr. Brett Summers, Trustee
Mrs. Ann Tedesco, Trustee

Transportation Facility Referendum Scheduled for October 6

The Byram Hills School District will hold a community referendum on Tuesday, October 6 to seek public approval to renovate and expand the district's transportation facility on the H.C. Crittenden campus using existing funds and resulting in no increased tax responsibility for residents.

The aging transportation facility serves as the maintenance yard and hub for the district's fleet of 31 buses, 26 vans and large cars, and 12 maintenance vehicles. The proposed project will provide adequate space for maintenance, parts storage, offices, and driver's training. It involves renovation of the building's infrastructure, systems, and finishes; expands parking; improves storm water management; and includes a vehicle wash bay with a wash water recycling system.

Part of the proposed project – the vehicle wash bay – will be shared between the district and the Town of North Castle in a partnership that has won a state grant of approximately \$373,000, which will cover about 85% of its construction cost. To receive this funding, the wash bay facility must be completed by March 31, 2011.

The entire transportation facilities project is also eligible for state building aid, which is anticipated to be about \$240,000. The grant for the wash bay and the state building aid brings the net cost of the project to approximately \$1.8 million, down from a total of \$2,420,000.

The Board of Education is proposing that the entire project be funded through the use of the fund balance in the General

Fund, which is currently \$3,080,000, with the result that there would be no increased tax burden for community residents.

For details on the project and the proposed referendum, please visit the district website, www.byramhills.org and click on District News. You can also watch a video detailing the proposition on Bobcat TV (www.bobcatv.org). Dr. Jackie Taylor and Mr. Richard Lasselle will be available to answer questions during the following events:

Tours at the transportation facility at 9 MacDonald Avenue:

Saturday, September 12 at 3 p.m.

Friday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Principal's coffees:

H.C. Crittenden: September 16 at 10 a.m.

Coman Hill: September 17 at 9:45 a.m.

The Wampus School: September 21 at 10 a.m.

Byram Hills High School: September 22 at 9 a.m.

Meanwhile, here are some answers to frequently asked questions:

- Q:** Why do we need to renovate and expand the transportation facility?
A: Several studies have identified the transportation facility as a structure that should be upgraded to 21st century standards. The existing facility, which dates back to the early 1960s, has had minimal upgrades since its construction. In all, 61 people are based in the transportation facilities building. The district's fleet of buses and vehicles are all maintained in this

structure, which also houses the district's transportation department offices and part of the buildings and grounds department. We have been advised that the existing structure cannot adequately meet all these district needs.

- Q:** Why doesn't Byram Hills subcontract its transportation needs to outside vendors?
- A:** This option was analyzed in part during two different transportation studies conducted for the district in 1995-96 and 2005-06. In addition, a recent court decision upheld New York's Public Employment Relations Board's (PERB) determination that a district cannot unilaterally outsource its transportation program to private contractors, meaning that any such arrangement would need to be negotiated with the CSEA union. The results of the studies and the recent PERB decision contribute to the administration's belief that it is more cost effective to continue to operate its own transportation program.
- Q:** If this referendum passes, how will my taxes be affected?
- A:** Your tax rate will not go up as a result of this referendum passing. The district already holds the funds to cover all costs but is required by state law to conduct a referendum to seek community approval for the transfer of funds to the Capital Fund to pay for such a project.

VOTING

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009,
6:30 A.M. - 9 P.M.
H.C. CRITTENDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
10 MACDONALD AVENUE, ARMONK
(handicapped accessible)**

VOTING INFORMATION

Prior registration is not required to vote.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

An individual must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older; and
- Have been a resident of the school district for 30 days preceding the day of the vote, provided, however, no person excluded by the provision of Section 5-106 of the Education Law shall have the right to vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are permitted and may be cast by a qualified voter who is:

- A patient in a hospital or who is unable to vote because of illness or physical disability
- Out of the city or county of residence on the day of the vote because of business, vacation, or other duty

- Detained in jail awaiting trial or grand jury action, or is in prison due to a non-felony conviction.

REQUESTING ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Any person seeking an absentee ballot must complete an application obtained from the District Clerk, Richard Lasselle, or the district's website.

- The school district must receive the application of the absentee voter no later than Tuesday, September 29, 2009, if the ballot is to be mailed, or it may be picked up in person through October 5.
- Only ballots received by 5 p.m. on October 6, 2009, will be counted.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact Richard Lasselle, School District Clerk, at (914) 273-4198, extension 5930, or by e-mail at: rlasselle@byramhills.org.

Details of the Proposed Transportation Facility Project can be reviewed between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the District Office, 10 Tripp Lane, Armonk, NY, and on the district website, www.byramhills.org.

BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
10 TRIPP LANE
ARMONK, NY 10504

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Richard Kaplin, Vice President
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Published by P/NW BOCES
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VOTE!
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009
6:30 A.M. - 9 P.M.
H.C. CRITTENDEN
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO. 4402

“A great place to learn”