

Dear Parents and Community Members:

I wanted to take a moment to update you on developments with our new capital construction project. It was expected that the construction would be underway this summer, but for reasons beyond the School District's control the Schedule has been adjusted.

The District Capital Improvement Project was logged in to the New York State Education Department's Office of Facilities Planning for review on October 18, 2016. At that time, based on review times noted on the NYSED's website, it was expected that the review and approval process would be completed in mid-February 2017 to early-March 2017. Bidding was expected to occur in April and construction was to begin in the summer of 2017.

Due to staffing issues, budgetary constraints, and a change in leadership at the New York State Education Department's Office of Facilities Planning, the approval time for capital projects by NYSED has increased again in the past several months. We finally received engineering review comments in mid-May 2017, and did not receive general construction comments until May 31, 2017. At that point we were only a few weeks away from the beginning of the summer 2017 construction season, and at the peak of the bidding season for school projects.

We received approval of the Project by the New York State Education Department in just the past few days. After consulting with the Architect and the School District Financial Consultants, it was decided that we will put the Project out to bid in early November 2017, with bids due just before the Thanksgiving holiday. This should be a favorable time for receipt of bids and will allow the School District adequate time to process and have in place the necessary start-up documentation (bonds, insurance, contracts, etc.), complete product submittal review and procurement of materials so that as soon as the spring 2018 conditions are favorable for site work, the contractors can move forward in an organized manner.

We look forward to moving forward with the Project this fall. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (315) 865-7200, or by e-mail at jevangelist@hpschools.org.