

# Elementary Facilities Master Plan Update

## Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Since our last elementary facilities newsletter was published, a great deal of progress has been made with the Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Plan. It has certainly been a busy time for the school district with an unprecedented number of changes within all of our elementary schools. In just one year, we closed a school, built a new school, completed redistricting, conducted district-wide staffing changes, and passed a referendum to construct two more schools.

While school construction projects are about brick and mortar, the aforementioned referendum is about so much more. It serves as a powerful reminder that our community wisely invests in the future of our children, enthusiastically champions public education, and is willing to work together to serve the greater good. The teamwork involved to secure this important investment for our children and the town's infrastructure stands as a powerful lesson for our students. They have seen firsthand the power of a community that works together toward a common goal. Thank you to everyone in the South Windsor community for the countless ways you support our schools and our educators on a daily basis.

As we approach the end of Phase One of our Ten-Year Plan with the opening of Orchard Hill in August, we look forward to embarking on Phase Two: the construction of new Eli Terry and Philip R. Smith schools. I hope the following pages provide meaningful information as well as an opportunity to reflect on our community's accomplishments.

Sincerely,

*KATE CARTER*

Kate Carter, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



June 2017



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*Ribbon Cutting*

**ORCHARD HILL**

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

*Saturday, August 26, 2017—11:00 a.m.*

*380 Foster Street, South Windsor*

*Everyone is invited. Please join us for this special celebration!*

**MARCH 2017 PHASE TWO REFERENDUM  
OVERWHELMINGLY PASSED  
BY SOUTH WINDSOR RESIDENTS!**



## A TRIBUTE TO WAPPING SCHOOL

Since the closing of Wapping School was announced, we have endeavored to be respectful and thoughtful about the impact of this change on the South Windsor community, especially on our Wapping students, families and staff. Throughout the past year, transition activities have provided opportunities for parents and students to get acclimated to their new schools. In May, Wapping students traveled to their new school to meet fellow classmates and visit classrooms. Families were also invited to year-end picnics held at their new schools.



On Sunday, May 21, approximately 300 people gathered for a Wapping School closing celebration. Families from both the past and the present were in attendance, and the Wapping School mascot, Paws, mingled with families. Children enjoyed crafts, face painting, a bounce house, and music provided by D.J. "In the Groove." Remarks were offered by Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kate Carter; former Wapping principals, James Graffam and Tim Nee; and current principal Laura Hickson. Guests also wrote messages for the Wapping time capsule, created memories in the photo booth, and enjoyed refreshments from an Alex's Lemonade Stand organized as part of Wapping's service learning project. In addition, proceeds from the sale of t-shirts and other items helped support the Karen Giannamore Scholarship fund.

In a June 8 letter to families, Dr. Kate Carter shared the following regarding the Wapping closing:

*I could not let this moment pass without expressing my admiration for Wapping families and your approach to this time of change. School closures are becoming commonplace across Connecticut and, as you may have seen reported through news outlets, they are often extremely contentious and divisive. While school closures seem to be bringing out the worst in other communities, the closure of Wapping brought out the best in ours.*

*At the recent celebration event held at Wapping School on May 21st, I watched former staff members come together to reminisce and to honor their memories of this wonderful school. I also*

*watched Wapping students receive recognition for essays which captured their fond memories and sing beautifully for a crowd of proud parents on a perfect, sunny day. I saw current teachers continue to be a "class act" balancing their professionalism and optimism for the future with their appropriately sentimental feelings for their school community. In my remarks that day, I reminded families that the special memories of Wapping School are not housed within the walls of the school, but rather held within your hearts, remaining with you throughout your journey. I also shared that I was heartened by the fact that the building itself will continue to serve the children of South Windsor through the Parks and Recreation Department and its quality programs for kids, as well as through specialized instructional space for the high school.*

*Parents, please know that the gracious way in which you have responded to this school closure is truly a gift to your children in the form of an essential life-long skill. You are modeling how to manage change in the most positive of ways. As adults we know there are countless challenges in life out of our control, but what we can control is how we respond to these challenges. What a powerful lesson you have imparted to your children.*

# A TRIBUTE TO WAPPING SCHOOL



## OVERVIEW OF PHASE TWO

### ELI TERRY



- A 66,586 square foot K-5 elementary school will be built on the **Eli Terry** campus (includes districtwide specialized programs).
- Construction is expected to begin in winter 2019 and completed in summer 2020.
- Eli Terry students will remain in the original Eli Terry building while their new school is being built, and move to their new Eli Terry facility in August 2020.
- Existing Eli Terry building will be razed during the summer of 2020.

### PHILIP R. SMITH



- A 58,243 square foot K-5 elementary school will be built on the site of the existing **Philip R. Smith** building.
- The original Philip R. Smith building will be razed prior to construction; construction is expected to begin in winter 2019 and completed in summer 2020.
- Beginning August 2018, Philip R. Smith students will be temporarily relocated to the original Orchard Hill Elementary School building while their school is being built. They will return to their newly built Philip R. Smith school in August 2020.

## SCG049 FILED WITH STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The SCG049 form is the required grant application for a school construction project. It provides data and information regarding a proposed project, including but not limited to: rationale for the project, cost information, financing information, nature of work to be undertaken, square footage details, projected enrollment, and the grade level range of students included in the project. (Source: [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov), SCG049 guidelines)

On May 19, 2017, the SCG049s for both projects were filed with the State of Connecticut's Department of Administrative Services. The timeline for the state's review and approval of these types of grant applications is 12 months. During this time, the district is permitted to gather information and start the design process for the project. Construction, however, will not occur until after approval is received from the state.

## SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE!

Effective July 1, South Windsor Public Schools will transition to a new website platform. In addition to a fresh new look and easier navigation, the Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Master Plan pages offer the latest news and updates, dedicated pages for each of the school projects in Phases One, Two and Three, redistricting information and a photo gallery. We hope these improvements will serve as a valuable resource and provide all interested stakeholders with timely information.



#### 10-Year Elementary Facilities Plan

- Latest News and Updates
- Phase One - Orchard Hill
- Phase Two - Philip R. Smith
- Phase Two - Eli Terry
- Phase Three - Pleasant Valley
- Documents/Communications
- Redistricting Information
- Photo Gallery

[www.southwindsorschools.org/elementaryfacilities](http://www.southwindsorschools.org/elementaryfacilities)





Orchard Hill Elementary School  
380 Foster Street  
South Windsor, CT 06074

Opening  
August 2017!

It has been almost four years since the Board of Education approved the Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Master Plan. We are approaching the conclusion of Phase One, and eagerly anticipate the opening of the new Orchard Hill Elementary School for students and staff. Construction is complete and teachers are preparing to move into the new building over the summer. A dedicated tour for parents and students attending Orchard Hill will occur in mid-August. While the building is not yet open for public access, tours will be offered immediately following the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on August 26.



## PHASE TWO MILESTONES TO-DATE

- 6/2016** Development of Educational Specifications for Eli Terry (ET) and Philip R. Smith (PRS) schools
- 6/2016** Commencement of Early Site Services
- 6/2016** Development of Enrollment Analysis and Redistricting Plans
- 8/2016** Early Site Services Completed for ET and PRS sites
- 9/2016** Refreshed Elementary Facilities 10-Year Timeline approved by the Board of Education
- 10/2016** Educational Specifications for ET and PRS schools approved by Board of Education
- 10/2016** Project budgets for ET and PRS schools approved by Board of Education
- 11/2016** Redistricting Plan approved by Board of Education
- 3/2017** Phase Two referendum passed by South Windsor residents
- 3/2017** PBC appointed as building committee by Town Council
- 5/2017** SCG049 Grant Applications filed with the State of Connecticut
- 6/2017** Closure of Wapping School

**Don't Miss the Orchard Hill Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:**



**Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.**



**380 Foster Street, South Windsor**



### **SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

#### **Board of Education**

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Joseph Durette  
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