

Rye Neck UFSD Capital Project Update - September 27, 2021

On August 25, 2021 the District held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new **MS Gymnasium** to celebrate the opening of the building. Approximately 18 months after breaking ground in March 2020, students were able to use this new facility when the District opened for its first day of classes on September 1, 2021.

The **oil tank replacement** at the gymnasium is underway and expected to be completed this fall. The new oil tank was received and installed earlier this month and piping and connection work are underway.

At the **Science Center**, the exterior work of the building is largely complete and significant progress is being made on the interior. This past week contractors were working on the installation of light fixtures, speakers, elevator, ceiling tiles, and bathroom partitions. While there can always be delays, we are optimistic that if we keep the current pace, the Science Center will be ready to welcome students in early 2022.

Capital Project Background

In February 2018, Rye Neck voters overwhelmingly approved a \$27.6 million bond referendum. The referendum included two spending propositions: \$6.3 million to replace aging roofs at all district school buildings and \$21.3 million to build the science center and gym. The roof work at the MS/HS campus, Daniel Warren, F.E. Bellows and the Administration building was completed in the fall of 2019 and came in approximately \$1.5 million under budget.

By the time construction on the Science Center and MS Gymnasium was ready to begin, the regional construction market had become overheated and the federal government's imposition of new tariffs had driven up steel prices substantially. The construction bids that the District received in late 2019 were well above the \$21.3 million budget that voters had previously approved. In February 2020, voters authorized the district to apply a \$1.2 million surplus from the roof replacement projects to the construction of the science center and gym. Voters also authorized an additional \$2.9 million in borrowing capacity to ensure that sufficient funds would be available, if necessary, to complete the projects. Like the original referendum, this proposition was overwhelmingly approved by voters.

A [detailed timeline](#) of the major milestones in the capital project is available on our website.

Financial Outlook

The science center and gym projects are currently within the budget estimates. For the Gymnasium and Science Center phase of the capital project, the district has issued \$22.0M in bonds and \$1.225M in a bond anticipation note. With prevailing interest rates at record lows, and with Rye Neck's strong credit rating (Aa1 by Moody's), the District was able to take advantage of favorable borrowing costs which lessens the cost of the capital project on taxpayers. There is \$1.0M remaining in approved borrowing which has not yet been issued through a bond or a bond anticipation note.

Throughout the construction process, the District's primary concern and focus is on ensuring the safety of Rye Neck students and staff and will continue doing so while minimizing disruptions on the campus. The District appreciates your patience and understanding, and invites you to visit the new gymnasium and, in 2022, the new Science Center.