

# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear West Deptford Community,

I hope this message finds you well. As we navigate the ongoing challenges in education, it is crucial for our school district to continually assess and address the evolving needs of our students, educators, and facilities. Today, I am writing to inform you about some critical updates regarding the infrastructure needs of our entire school district.

Over the years, our schools have served as pillars of our community, providing a nurturing environment for the growth and development of our students. To ensure that we maintain and enhance the quality of education we provide, it has become imperative to address several pressing issues across various schools within the district. Some of the issues we are seeing at this time:

## District-Wide Infrastructure Needs:

- **HVAC Systems:** Our schools require updates to our HVAC systems to provide a comfortable and conducive learning environment for our students.
- **Intercom and Bell System:** The current intercom and bell systems need upgrading to enhance communication and maintain a structured schedule throughout the school day.
- **Updated Phone System:** An updated phone system is essential for efficient communication between staff, parents, and the broader school community.

## West Deptford High School:

- **Band and Choir Space:** Additional space to support the band and choir programs is necessary to accommodate the growing needs of our music programs.
- **Locker Rooms:** Updating locker rooms will contribute to the overall well-being of our students participating in sports and physical activities.
- **Update the Auditorium:** Improvements to stage lighting and seating are required to support the quality of performances and events held at the school.

## West Deptford Middle School:

- **Stage Lighting and Curtains:** Upgrades to stage lighting and curtains will enhance the middle school's ability to host various performances and events.
- **Media Center and Science Labs:** The media center and science labs require modernization to meet the changing needs of our students in the digital age.
- **Locker Rooms:** Updating locker rooms will contribute to the overall well-being of our students participating in sports and physical activities.

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## Green-Fields Elementary:

- **Elevator and Atrium:** The addition of an elevator and repairs to the atrium are necessary to ensure accessibility and safety for all students and staff.

## Oakview Elementary:

- **Classroom Space:** Creating more classroom space is vital to accommodate the increasing student population in our preschool programs. Adequate space is crucial for creating a conducive learning environment that fosters creativity, collaboration, and overall positive development in our young learners.
- **Parking Lot:** An updated parking lot is essential for the safety and convenience of everyone accessing the school premises.

## Red Bank Elementary School:

- **Classroom Space:** Creating additional classroom space is crucial to meet the demands of our growing student population in our preschool programs. Adequate space is crucial for creating a conducive learning environment that fosters creativity, collaboration, and overall positive development in our young learners.
- **All-Purpose Room:** The all-purpose room serves as a central hub for various school activities and events, and I believe that a few thoughtful improvements could significantly elevate its overall appeal. By making this space more visually appealing and comfortable, we have the opportunity to create a more positive and inclusive atmosphere for both students and staff.

These and other needs are currently being assessed so that solutions can be proposed. The cumulative needs of our school district highlight the importance of considering a referendum. Moving towards a referendum will allow us to secure the necessary funding to address these critical infrastructure improvements. This process requires the support and collaboration of our entire school community.

To begin the process, we would like to create a group of community members and staff members to discuss these needs in more detail and to hear your thoughts and concerns. Your input is invaluable as we work together to ensure the continued success of our schools. If interested in being on the committee or providing suggestions for the committee to review, [please complete this form](#). The meetings will be scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Middle School Library. All chosen members will be contacted by December 1<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate your ongoing support and dedication to the education of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian C. Gismondi, Superintendent West Deptford School District