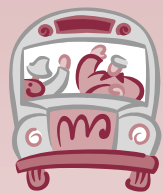


in

south
colonie
central
schools



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focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

September, 2007

A blueprint for the future South Colonie unveils new Strategic Plan

After a year of planning and input from a large contingent of district stakeholders, South Colonie has a new Strategic Plan in place.

The Strategic Plan will serve as a blueprint to help guide the district administration and Board of Education in its goal-setting and decision making during the next 3-5 year period. In fact, it is being used right now as the district sets its goals for the 2007-08 year.

“What we’ve done here is create a foundation for our district,” said Superintendent Michael Marcelle. “The Strategic Plan is a living document that can guide us and be reviewed, refined and updated from one year to the next.” I want to thank everyone who participated in this lengthy, but vital process. You are all making a difference in the lives of our children.”

Developing a new Strategic Plan was a large undertaking. Throughout most of last school year, representatives from the New York State School Boards Association facilitated a series of focus groups. The focus groups included representatives from the district administration, Board of Education, Key Communicator and community groups, business and government, instructional

Continued on page 2 ... Strategic Plan



Construction crews work to renovate a portion of the roof at Colonie Central High School this summer, including reinforcing the structure with new steel beams. These repairs and improvements are part of the capital project approved by South Colonie voters last October. More photos on page 5.

Summer construction heats up district-wide

New school improvement projects approved by South Colonie voters last October get underway

Construction crews had a busy summer season as work on the first phase of the \$9.28 million capital improvement project approved by South Colonie voters last October got underway. Repairs and improvements — all of which are scheduled for completion by the summer of 2008 — are ongoing at all eight schools and the district bus garage. Here’s an overview of the work by building:

- **Colonie Central High School** — Replacement of a portion of the high school roof, including reinforcement with new steel beams, is scheduled for completion in September, as is the installation of new hot water heaters. The boiler room floor drains will be repiped next summer.

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... Strategic Plan

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and non-instructional staff, students and PTA members. These district stakeholders delved into such questions as:

- **Key Question:** What aspects of the district are of the greatest value?

Common answers: Strong staff, supportive community, parent involvement, meeting student needs and a strong curriculum.

- **Key Question:** What are the major challenges facing the district in the next 3-5 years?

Common answers: District finances, space, changing demographics, student needs/program offerings.

- **Key Question:** What changes does the district need to make to better prepare its students for the future?

Common answers: Technology, facilities, curriculum and early intervention.

Below is a breakdown of the main points and priorities made by each focus group as the members tackled these, and other, important questions. Complete copies of the Strategic Plan are available at the schools and District Office.

November 30th deadline to apply for the Middle Class STAR rebates

Residents who wish to receive a property tax rebate under the 2007 Middle Class STAR Rebate Program must file an application with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance no later than November 30.

To receive a STAR rebate this year, property owners with a basic STAR exemption on their 2007-08 school tax bills must complete and submit an application available on the state website at www.nystax.gov. Senior citizens who are property owners and receive an enhanced STAR exemption on their 2007-08 tax bill will receive a rebate check automatically. No application is required.

Please mark your calendars ...



South Colonie's annual school bus vote will be held:

- **Thursday, October 18th**
- **11 a.m. to 9 p.m.**
- **At the 5 elementary schools**

More information in the next InFocus

Questions	Board of Education	Non Instructional Staff	Administration & Supervisors	Key Communicators	Instructional Staff	PTA	Students
What aspects of the district are of greatest value?	Community support Staff commitment Parent involvement Student focused Proactive school board	Communications Staff commitment Administrator visibility Positive students	Strong staff Commitment to students Supportive community	Curriculum/programs Willingness to address issues Special Ed program Motivated students	Employees Students Professional growth Small elementary class sizes	Staff commitment Educational program Parent involvement	Good teachers School climate & building environment Sports program
What are the major challenges facing the district in the next 3-5 years?	Changing demographics Shifting tax based & related finances Student growth Parent involvement	Student residency High school space	School finances Common philosophy Diversity - population trends Recruiting - staff development	Finances Safe & orderly environment Diversity of student needs	State mandates vs. student interests & needs Growth/space Full day kindergarten	State assessments Technology Facilities Attendance zone Growth/redistricting	High school space Diversity - at risk students More good teachers Staff & orderly environment
What changes does the district need to make to better prepare students for the future?	Curriculum flexibility, i.e., technology, business Early intervention Foreign language	Technology program Breakfast schedule Safe & orderly environment	Early intervention- full day kindergarten 21st century curriculum State/federal mandates	Occupational & vocational programs Student support services	Library space Technology Teacher hiring process Graduation requirements Facility needs Early intervention	Diversity Facilities Student scheduling	High school facility Ability grouping

SOUTH COLONIE PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION FORM — 2007-08 YEAR

Initial Notification to Persons in Parental Relation and Staff Pursuant to Section 409-h of the State Education Law and Commissioner’s Regulation 155.24*

Dear Parent, Guardian and School Staff:

New York State Education Law Section 409-H and State Education Department Commissioner’s Regulation 155.24, effective July 1, 2001, require all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year. The South Colonie Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48 hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- * a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following application;
- * anti-microbial products;
- * nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- * silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- * boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- * the application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- * the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- * the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect the individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list. If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to Stephen Benedict, Buildings and Grounds, 102 Lorelee Drive, Albany, N.Y. 12205. Benedict, the school pesticide representative, can be reached by phone at (518) 869-3576, Ext. 2445, and by Fax at (518) 869-6481. He can be contacted for information on these requirements.

***NOTE: Please register again if you registered in response to any previous notifications.**

**SOUTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Request for Pesticide Application Notification**

If you are a person in parental relation list the school building(s) your child(ren) attend(s): _____

If you are a school employee list the school(s) or building(s) regularly worked in: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Written notification must be provided to all persons in parental relation and staff at the following intervals throughout the school year; at the beginning of the school year or the beginning of summer school; within 2 school days of the end of: the January break, spring recess and the end of summer school; and within 10 days of the end of the school year.

South Colonie Central School District uses an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to pests. IPM is recommended by the NYS Education Department and the US EPA.

Sincerely,

Stephen Benedict — School Pesticide Representative

Have you resolved to do something different and meaningful this year?

Are you looking for a position where you can work when you want or need extra money?

SUBSTITUTING MAY BE FOR YOU!

The South Colonie Central School District is seeking substitutes in the following areas:

Substitute Teachers - If you hold a teaching certificate or a bachelor's degree, we have classroom substitute positions available for full or half day assignments. Substitute teachers are needed in all areas. \$97 per day for certified, \$88.75 per day for uncertified.

School Bus Drivers - We will provide training and help you obtain the necessary licenses. A high school diploma and regular driving license are required. We pay \$13.25 for the first 100 hours of substituting and \$14.10 per hour, thereafter.

Food Service Helpers - We have substitute positions available for lunch shifts in all of our schools. \$8.85 per hour.

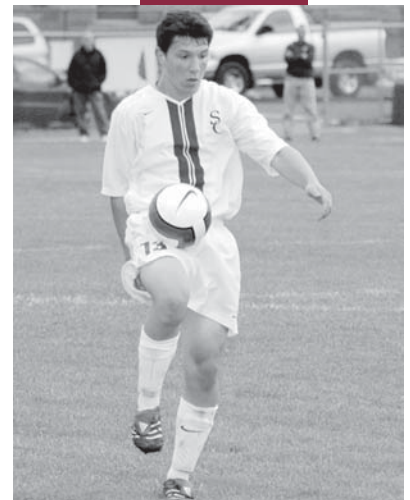
School Nurses - Substitute nurses are needed in all of our schools. New York State registered nursing license required. \$16 per hour.

School Monitors, Custodial Workers and Typists - If you have a high school diploma, we have substitute positions available at the elementary, middle school and high school levels.

School Monitors — \$8.50 per hour.

Typist — \$9.25 per hour.

Custodial Worker — \$9.50 per hour. 4 or 8 hour shifts. First and second shifts.



For more information about these substitute positions, please contact the Human Resource Office or stop and pick up an application.

869 - 3576



... summer work

Continued from page 1

- **Lisha Kill Middle School** — Installation of a new roof began this summer and is scheduled for completion in September. Cosmetic replacement of a portion of the school's delaminating gym wall panels will be done next summer.

- **Bus Garage** — Reconstruction of the floor drains is ongoing and should be completed later in the fall.

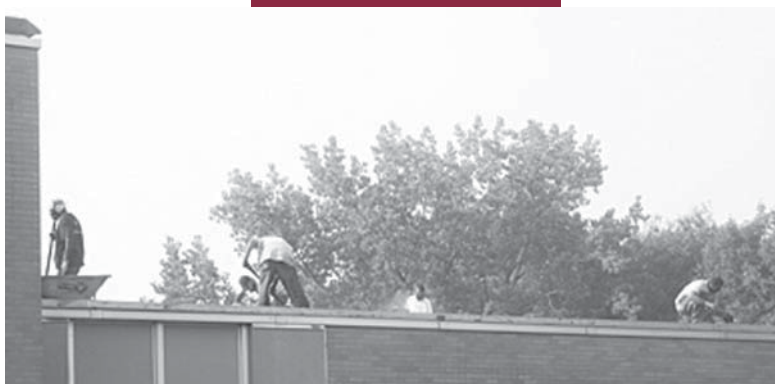
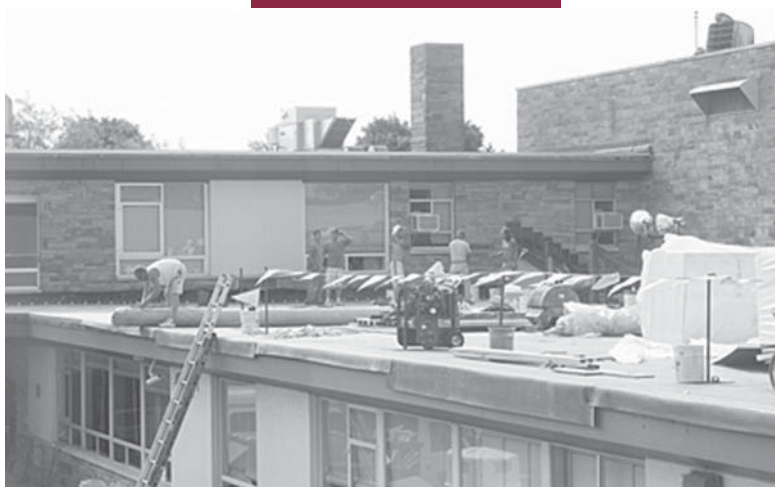
- **Veeder Elementary School** — The district architect is currently working on the bid specifications for the new Veeder School three-room classroom addition. Ground should be broken and the footings in place by the fall. Veeder's boiler replacement and repiping of the boiler room floor drains are scheduled for completion next summer.

- **Saddlewood and Shaker Road Elementary Schools** — Replacement of the roofs and skylights is scheduled for next summer.

- **Sand Creek Middle School** — Replacement of the roof, skylights and boiler (heat and hot water) is scheduled for next summer.

- **Forest Park Elementary School** — Next summer will see the replacement of the boiler and repiping of the boiler room floor drains.

For continuous updates on these district improvements please continue visiting this South Colonie web site.



Construction crews tackle summer roof repairs/replacements at Colonie Central High School (top 2 photos) and Lisha Kill Middle School.



CCHS to offer DMV learner's permit testing

No more traveling to the Department of Motor Vehicles and waiting in line to take the learner's permit drivers test any more. Starting this fall, Colonie Central High will join other schools in offering the test online during the school day.

DMV has implemented the Online Knowledge Testing Program in schools in the hopes of making the testing process less time consuming for everyone. CCHS students ages 15 and older, who obtain written parental permission, can report to the computer lab during their lunch period or study hall to take the learner's permit exam. A CCHS staff member will serve as the test proctor — verifying credentials, forms and setting up accounts.

The system automatically scores each test and displays the results for the student on the computer screen. Students who pass the exam will then be given a printed receipt from the lab. The receipt can be taken to any New York State DMV office, where the test-taker will receive his or her permit, provided they are age 16 or older.

Asbestos notification

In accordance with the EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763), the South Colonie Central School District put in place a management plan to identify and manage asbestos building materials. Periodic Surveillances are done every six months. In addition, abatement projects have been conducted in conjunction with the building construction. Specific notifications are posted in the buildings where projects are done prior to the start of the abatement work. This spring the Triennial Reinspection will be done, reviewing and updating the management plan for all of the district buildings.

The Asbestos Management Plan for the district is kept on file at the District Office. These records are available for review during regular business hours (8:30 am- 3:30 pm) or by making a special appointment. For more information, contact Steve Benedict at the District Office, 869-3576.

Michael Marcelle
Superintendent of Schools

Anthony DeBlois
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Beverly Miller
Assistant Superintendent/
Management Services

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Director of Human Resources

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