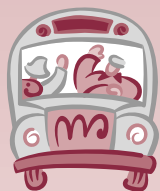


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focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

September, 2008

Summer construction 2006 capital project nears completion

Construction crews had a busy summer as work continued on the final phase of the \$9.28 million capital improvement project approved by South Colonie voters in October, 2006.

Here's an overview of this summer's work by building. For a complete look at the project work in 2007 and 2008, please visit the district web site and select capital project, 2006.

- **Veeder Elementary School** — Finishing touches were put on the new, three-classroom wing that had been under construction since 2007. The rooms will be ready for use by the start of school this fall. The school boiler was replaced and classroom ventilation completed. Crews are also busy enlarging the Veeder parking lot.

- **Shaker Road and Saddlewood Elementary Schools** — Replacement of the roofs, addition of structural steel to reinforce the roofs for heavy snow loads and skylight replacement.

- **Sand Creek Middle School** — New boilers added, replacement of the roof and skylights, and addition of roof drains and structural steel to reinforce the roof for heavy snow loads.

Continued on page 5 ... *summer work*



New South Colonie Superintendent of Schools, Jonathan Buhner (center) and his wife, Mercedes, greet district staff and the community at a welcome reception held in August at the Fuller Road Firehouse.

Meet Jonathan Buhner Getting to know your new Superintendent ...

Jonathan Buhner joined South Colonie as Superintendent of Schools on August 1, replacing the now retired Michael Marcelle. The 43-year-old came to the district from Walton, New York, where he served as Superintendent since 2004. Recently, the decorated Army veteran, college All American wrestler, former BOCES administrator, high school principal and technology teacher, sat down with *In Focus* to tell us a little more about himself. Here's what he had to say:

Why did you choose a career in education?

I became interested in education as a career, based on the experiences I had as a young person watching the positive impact certain teachers, coaches and administrators had on myself and the friends I grew up with in Sherburne, New York. I entered the military after high school, taking advantage of the Army college fund to later attend Oswego State University. That's where I started on a path to becoming a teacher and an educator. I have worked in different roles in education for 19 years now, and have always found it personally and professionally rewarding.

Continued on page 2 ... *meet Jon Buhner*

... meet Jon Buhner

Continued from page 1

It feels great to see young people grow and succeed, knowing I may have played a part in that.

What do you think the role of a Superintendent should be?

I believe a Superintendent plays three major roles. First, it is important for me to help set a "vision" for the district in partnership with the Board of Education and the Leadership Team. This means continually looking at where the district has been, and where we would like it to be at certain benchmarks in time. A Superintendent should orchestrate plans to move a district toward that vision with the resources that are available to us. But for an organization to move forward, all of the stakeholders have to be committed to the same goals. Planning and helping people agree on those common goals is what I see as the second critical part of a Superintendent's job. Lastly, a Superintendent is kept extremely busy managing the normal daily operations of a school district.

What are your first impressions of the district?

I have been extremely impressed by the academic achievement scores of South Colonie students over the years, and the variety of program opportunities available to them here. People are so proud to be associated with this school district. As I've had an opportunity to meet with staff and community members, one common message has become clear to me — people believe our district offers an excellent education, one that prepares our children to move ahead and become competitive in life regardless of the career path they have chosen. South Colonie is a wonderful place full of people who really care about the community and children we serve.

What would you like South Colonie parents/guardians to know?

Three things: First, I want them to take great ownership and pride in their school district. When schools and parents/guardians work as partners wonderful things happen for children. Second, I would like to remind them and the community at large that we are charged with taking care of their investment and we take that responsibility very seriously. Finally, I would like to encourage their involvement through the PTAs, specific school building teams or other committees. Together, we make a great team!

What would you like our staff to know?

Let me first thank the staff for its valuable time and input during my transition period. They should know that I consider everyone in this district to be an important part of our educational community.

We all have a daily impact on the success of the students. It's important for everyone to keep the big picture in mind: How can we use the resources we have (human and material) to continually improve and give our students a world class education? This district has a great deal to celebrate, but like any great organization, we should always be looking for ways to improve.



Superintendent
Jonathan Buhner

What are your short-term and long-term goals?

My short-term goal is to learn as much as I can as quickly as I can about the district's history and operations, and continue to meet with the staff, students, community members, and public officials. In a district of significant size like South Colonie, it is important to fully understand the systems that are in place and the responsibilities of each staff member as we all work as a team to make our district successful. Long term, as I spend some time digesting the district's Strategic Plan and our students' academic achievement scores, I will be working with the Board of Education and the district Leadership Team to plan our future and identify areas of opportunity for improvement.

What do you think that people might be surprised to know about you?

Some people may be surprised to know that I enjoy woodworking when I have a few free hours. Over the years I have collected tools and different pieces of power equipment, and I plan on setting up a workshop in my basement. My wife, Mercedes, and I also enjoy being involved in our children's school and social activities as well as community events.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

I enjoy working on things around the house and spending my free time with my wife, Mercedes, and my children. My daughter, Mercita, is a sixth grade student at Lisha Kill Middle School this fall and my son, Jon, is a freshman at the high school. When we have the chance as a family, we like to camp, visit amusement parks and explore different places together.

How would you like to be remembered?

When people look back at my time in South Colonie I hope they say I was dedicated to the overall good of the school district and the community. I want to be remembered as someone who was responsive — someone who based his most difficult decisions on what was most beneficial for the students we serve.

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. \$99 per day for certified, \$90.50 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 \$13.50 for the first 100 hours of substituting and \$15.25 per hour, thereafter.

Food Service Helpers - We have substitute positions available for lunch shifts in all of our schools. \$9.10 per hour.

School Nurses - Substitute nurses are needed in all of our schools. New York State registered nursing license required. \$16.25 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 – \$8.75 per hour.

Typist – \$9.50 per hour.

Custodial Worker – \$9.75 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

SOUTH COLONIE PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION FORM — 2008-09 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

... summer work

Continued from page 1

- **Lisha Kill Middle School** — Addition of structural steel to reinforce the roof in some areas and cosmetic replacement of a portion of the school's delaminating wall panels in the gym.
- **Forest Park Elementary School** — Installation of a new school boiler.
- **Bus Garage** — Reconstruction of the floor drains, as was done at most buildings, to reroute run-off into the storm sewers as required by law. Four new security cameras were also installed.

Other 2008 summer work not associated with the bond includes:

- **Colonie Central High School** — A new, turning lane has been added to increase traffic flow into the MUG parking lot off Raider Boulevard.

Two new exit doors and temporary fire escape scaffolding has been added to the rear of the football field press box to meet fire codes for the fall season. The district is looking into building a new press box for future years.

- **Roessville and Saddlewood Elementary Schools** — New age-appropriate (ages 2-4) playground equipment will be added this fall to the existing playgrounds for children attending the pre-school programs there.



Crews install a new turn lane into the MUG off Raider Boulevard at Colonie Central High School.

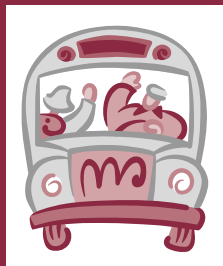


The roofs at Shaker Road (above) and Saddlewood (below) Elementary Schools have been replaced.



The new three-classroom wing at Veeder Elementary School was completed for fall classes.

Please
mark
your
calendars



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

- **Thursday, October 23rd**
- **11 a.m. to 9 p.m.**
- **At the 5 elementary schools**

More information in the next InFocus

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.

Dollars For Scholars awards

South Colonie Dollars For Schools awarded \$24,500 in scholarships to the Colonie Central High School Class of 2008.

Albany Fire Extinguisher (\$500), Molly Smith; **Albany Multi Medicine** (\$250), Torrina Adams; **Lawrence A. Bach Memorial** (\$500), Audrey Saccone; **Dr. Thomas A Brown/Cecile B. David** (\$250), Zach Harrison, Christina Hartman and Bethanie Strevell; **Capital Communications Federal Credit Union – “Make a Difference”** (\$1,000), Jessica Abel; **Thomas F. Calautti Memorial** (\$500), Nicolas Santos; **Clough Harbour & Associates Engineering** (\$350), Zach Harrison; **R. Thomas Faughnan, Jr. Art Student** (\$1,000), Ryan Johnson and Stephanie Paeglow; **Milton L. Flood Memorial Boys’ Football** (\$500), Matthew June and Briana Cousins; **Edward A. Frank Memorial** (\$250), Evan Crisafulli; **Patricia H. Gordon Memorial** (\$500), Audrey Saccone; **Heritage Scholarship** (4-years @ \$400 per year), Amy Ranalli; **Jamayne Jasewicz Memorial** (\$250), Katlin Mock.



Jaquay-Leone Theatrical (\$350), Angelia Golden; **Latham Rotary Club** (\$250), Craig Rovito; **Macy’s Colonie Community Day** (\$500), Emily McCann; **Metro Ford** (\$1,000), Kevin Fealey; **Justin Mirable Memorial** (\$1,000), Claire Reynolds and Erica Lostritto; **Musical Advancement** (\$500), Julie Maio; **New Comer-Cannon Family Funeral Home – “Tradition of Caring,”** (\$1,000), Casey Lynn Kalica; **NY DFS/AXA Advisors** (\$250), Alicia Dott; **Kathie Kirk Patrizio Memorial** (\$500), Jessica Burns; **David Scaringe Memorial** (\$1,000), Brian Goodman.

Senior Class Executive Committee (\$250), Craig Rovito; **South Colonie Alumni** (\$500), Katelyn Mennella; **SCDFS Directors** (\$500), James Bacher, Jessica Burns and Kelly Patterson; **SCDFS Chapter** (\$500), Briana Cousins and Gerda Katsevman; **South Colonie Teachers Association** (\$500), Jillian Varner; **Stewart’s Shops Holiday Match** (\$350), Erica Weiglhofer; **Edward J. Szesnat III Memorial** (4 years @ \$500 per year), Anthony DiScipio; **Tabner, Ryan & Keniry LLP** (\$1,000), Brian Sleasman; **Joanie Thomas/Lauren Fetsko** (\$200), Stephanie Paeglow; **Corey Lee Womack Memorial** (\$400), Angelia Golden.

Jonathan Buhner
Superintendent of Schools

Tim Backus
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Beverly Miller
Assistant Superintendent/
Management Services

David Seaver
Director of Human Resources

Board of Education
James (Tim) Ryan, President
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