

**GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**345 LAKEVILLE ROAD  
GREAT NECK, NEW YORK 11020**

*Telephone (516) 773-1405  
Fax (516) 773-6685*

**BARBARA BERKOWITZ  
President**

**FRAN LANGSNER  
Vice President**

**DONALD L. ASHKENASE  
LAWRENCE R. GROSS  
SUSAN MINER-HEALY**

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Superintendent of Schools**

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District Clerk**

**KATHLEEN DENNIS  
Treasurer**

February 13, 2008

Dear School Community Partners,

As you may know, over the past several months your Board of Education has been exploring various steps it might take to ease enrollments at our South High School. Specifically, over the past few years the student enrollment at South High School has grown, reaching 1300 students this year, with the potential of about 1375 for next year. We would like to keep the enrollment in South High not much higher than 1300 students relative to class size, comfort in traveling the halls, and related issues. The enrollment at North High, on the other hand, has been fairly stable at about 950 students, with ample capacity for more students. Our staff forecasts enrollment predictions each year, for five years in advance. Over many years, these projections have been quite accurate. However, an unanticipated influx of new residents with high school age students, locating mainly in the South High attendance zone, has resulted in a higher than predicted enrollment there. While not as serious, a similar disparity between North Middle School and South Middle School also exists.

This issue has been discussed at Board of Education meetings over the past few months, and has been reported on in the local newspapers. We are writing to all residents of our school district to ensure that everyone has the same information regarding the steps we plan to take now to provide immediate relief to South High for this coming September, and also to acquire more information to help us plan in the longer term. These steps were discussed in detail at our Board of Education meeting this past Monday, February 11, and will be formally approved at a special meeting on Monday, February 25, at 8:00 P.M. at North High School.

First, we plan to approve the creation of an optional attendance zone consisting of the current south-zoned regions of E. M. Baker and Saddle Rock schools. For the fall of 2008, the parents of all students exiting grades five through eleven this June who reside in this optional attendance zone will be given the choice of enrolling their children in North Middle or North High, instead of South Middle or South High, for September. The same option will be given to all "new move-ins" as well. All students who take the option to go to a north school will be eligible for transportation if they are beyond the "walker" limits to the school they choose. For a map of the relevant attendance zones, refer to the link that we've placed on our district website, <http://greatneck.k12.ny.us>.

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Second, the Board of Education plans to employ the services of a professional demographer to study the entire picture, including enrollment trends, space availability, and community boundaries. Professional demographers develop various options for the Board and community to consider. We anticipate employing such a demographer after the next meeting, with a comprehensive report of options for us to share with the community early next fall.

Finally, the Board of Education has approved administration's plan to move expeditiously to make more classroom and science laboratory space available in South High School next fall. The construction of two new science labs and some additional classrooms will provide needed relief.

As we always do when we make decisions, we want to ensure that all of those who might be affected know of the circumstances involved. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding in this complex issue, and we certainly thank all residents for their ongoing and strong support of all of the efforts we make on behalf of our children and our entire school community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Berkowitz, President  
Great Neck Board of Education

Ronald L. Friedman  
Superintendent of Schools