

**TOWN OF WALWORTH – “SIT WITH THE SUPERVISOR” SESSION  
19 SEPTEMBER 2009**

The following minutes were prepared in my absence and given to me on October 6, 2009 by Supervisor Plant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susie C. Jacobs  
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF WALWORTH – “SIT WITH THE SUPERVISOR” SESSION  
19 September 2009**

An informational roundtable discussion with Supervisor Plant, Councilwoman Marini, Councilwoman Hawkins-Mance, and Councilman Yale, was held at the West Walworth Fire Department, 3870 West Walworth Road, on September 19, 2009, at 9:00 AM, with a quorum of the Town Board present. Absent were Councilman Maciuska and Susie Jacobs, Town Clerk.

Also present were the following representatives from the Wayne Central School District: Kim Cox, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Greg Atseff, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Joyce Lyke, School Board President, Jackie Brunner, School Board Member, Amy Gebhardt, Public Relations.

Additionally 15 area residents were present.

The following items were discussed:

1. Maintenance of various properties within the West Walworth hamlet.
2. Feral cats and rodent problems.
3. West Walworth Road project status questions.
4. Speed enforcement.
5. Parking on sidewalks and gutters.
6. Freewill Elementary School and School Capital Project – the attached handout was distributed to those in attendance.

Councilwoman Marini left the meeting at 10:15 AM and Councilwoman Hawkins-Mance left the meeting at 11:00 AM at which time there was no longer a quorum present at the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Notes were taken by Councilwoman Marini and Supervisor Plant in the absence of the Town Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Plant, Supervisor

# Wayne Central School District CAPITAL PROJECT FACTS



Wayne Central School District is proposing a "One Campus Concept" by reducing the three current elementary schools to one enlarged Ontario Primary School site. In addition, an inter-campus road will be built to reduce traffic congestion on Route 350. Energy efficient windows will be installed at the high school and a new concession stand with restrooms will be constructed between the athletic fields.

A consolidated elementary school will allow all children in the Wayne Central School District to attend a state-of-the-art facility. Having the children together will allow for a consistent and balanced program.

Voting will take place on Tuesday, December 8th from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm in the gymnasium lobby of the James A. Beneway High School, located at 6200 Ontario Center Road, Ontario Center, New York 14520.



## What will the cost of the project be?

The entire project including the new elementary building, improvements to the high school, an inter-campus road and a new concession stand will cost \$49 million dollars. This will be paid by New York State Aid (\$24,000,000), New York State EXCEL (Expanding Our Children's Education and Learning) money (\$835,000), Capital Reserve Fund (\$15,000,000) and debt coming off the books (\$9,200,000). This allows the district to complete the project without raising the tax rate.



## Why do we need to consolidate the elementary school buildings?

Since 2003 the district's student population has decreased from approximately 2800 students to 2500. Over the past year the population has decreased by 54 students and projections show that the population will continue to steadily decline over the next eight years. In the year 2018 it is estimated to be at 2100.

The district has the opportunity to build a new, state of the art elementary building without increasing local taxes.

The district stands to save over a million dollars in staffing costs each year.



### **Why not just consolidate the primary and elementary schools in Ontario and lower taxes?**

The district only receives the state aid money if the district builds. Similarly the EXCEL and capital reserve funds can only be used for a building project. There would be some savings with a reduction of debt, but the million dollars a year in staffing saving cannot be realized unless all three of the buildings are combined.



### **Won't this be a very large school?**

The total student population in the new consolidated school will be about the same as Victor, Canandaigua and Brighton elementary schools, however the building will be split in two parts, a primary section and an intermediate section. Each will have its own wing and administration. The primary and intermediate sections will each have a population similar to what the individual buildings had eight years ago.



### **In order to save money in staffing costs will there be layoffs at the district?**

Reductions in Wayne Central staff will occur through attrition NOT layoffs. The district has not laid off staff in more than eight years. In a district this size, people leave each year due to retirements, new positions or spouses being transferred. Whenever someone leaves, the position is analyzed to see if it is still needed and changes are made accordingly. The same process will be used in the consolidation. In addition, this project will provide jobs for many area construction workers, electricians, plumbers, roofers, carpenters and the businesses that support construction work.



### **What will happen to the three current elementary buildings?**

One of the district's primary goals is to make sure the elementary buildings continue to be used by the school and community.

There are a multitude of uses for the space in Ontario Elementary School. Potential uses include, but are not limited to, accommodating the district's computer technology department, the operations and maintenance department, the teachers resource center, the board of education and the district office. Additional space would be offered to the Town of Ontario.

The Town of Walworth could use Freewill Elementary School as a community center, town offices, and a library.

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### **Why does the district want to close Ontario Elementary School?**

Ontario Elementary School was built in 1926 and has served students well for many years. However, the classroom size does not meet state guidelines, the construction of the original section makes it difficult to heat the entire building and it is even more difficult to keep it cool. The facility is older and is more expensive to maintain. The multi-level construction also makes it difficult to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations for schools. While it may no longer be ideal classroom space, portions of the building can be used as community space.



### **The project seems unexpected. Why are we all of sudden voting on a building project?**

The district has been studying facility needs for almost two years. After careful analysis it has been determined that the school district can construct a building without a tax increase, save more than a million dollars a year in staffing and provide much needed space to the Towns of Walworth and Ontario, making this the ideal time to move forward with the "One Campus Concept."

For more information regarding the capital project, please contact Amy Gebhardt, Wayne Central's Public Relations Specialist, at 315-524-1008 or [agebhardt@wayne.k12.ny.us](mailto:agebhardt@wayne.k12.ny.us).



WAYNE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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