



NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
132A GOULD AVENUE
NORTH CALDWELL, NJ 07006

Telephone (973) 712-4400

boardoffice@ncboe.org

November 9, 2022

A Special Announcement

To: North Caldwell Community
From: North Caldwell Public Schools BOE
Re: School Facilities Plans
Date: November 9, 2022

With Thanksgiving right around the corner and as you make holiday plans, please include the following dates on your calendar as North Caldwell Public Schools takes the much-anticipated next steps to invest in our district's aging facilities. The Board of Education has been paying close attention to new development, approved future development and existing home turnover, and its impact on our schools. We are now on a path to accomplish needed improvements and additions through a bond referendum, a fiscally responsible plan that requires voter approval to finance projects and receive a specific type of state aid. We anticipate holding the vote on September 26, 2023.

North Caldwell currently educates 710 students in buildings originally designed for 585 students. To date, we have maintained the exceptional education our community values. A bond referendum vote is necessary to keep class sizes small and to create facilities that meet future educational needs.

With that in mind, we invite parents and community members to attend the following meetings. (All meetings begin at 7:30 pm and will be held in the Grandview School Cafeteria located at 35 Hamilton Drive East, North Caldwell NJ 07006 with a remote option)

- **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**
- **Tuesday, November 29, 2022**
- **Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

On **Tuesday, Nov. 15**, the district's architect, Allen Barnett, Principal with Di Cara Rubino Architects, will present and the Board of Education will discuss details of the proposed projects, such as:

- Upgrade safety and security, include a dedicated, separate entrance for a Gym/Multi-Purpose Room at both Gould and Grandview School
- Replace aging roofs and building systems
- Enhance existing space and create additional space to maintain small class sizes
- Connect the Gould and Mountain buildings for travel between them, and create a new, security-enhanced entrance to be the face of that school
- Improve flow of drop-off/ pick-up and add parking

We look forward to the presentation on November 15 and welcome the community's attendance as the board discusses the plan. Later this month, on **Tuesday, November 29**, we will hold a more extensive public forum when parents and community members will hear an updated presentation from Mr. Barnett and have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the plans with the BOE members.

Finally, on **Tuesday, December 13**, the Board will complete a final review of the proposal before having a vote to approve and submit the plan to the NJ Department of Education (DOE). The state's review and approval process are anticipated to take three to six months.

The Board of Education's decision to move forward with a bond referendum is one of the most important we have considered during our tenure; it will have a lasting impact on North Caldwell Public Schools and the community we serve. We thank you and welcome your continued involvement in the months leading up to the vote on September 26, 2023.

Sincerely,

Linda Freda

Linda Freda, Ed.D
Superintendent

Mindy Opper

Mindy Opper
NCBOE President