

Postal Patron Local



Spencer-Van Etten Central School District

Together We Achieve Excellence Beyond Expectations

Community Information

Budget Advisory Volunteers

This year, the Budget Advisory Committee will meet two times virtually in preparation for the 2021-22 school budget. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the District Office at 589-7100 or email sveinfo@svecsd.org.

Meeting Dates/Times:
February 2nd @ 6:00pm
February 18th @ 6:00pm



Electronic Communications

In an effort to be more fiscally and environmentally responsible, we still plan to transition from bulk mailings to electronic parent/guardian letters and community newsletters. Our communications will eventually be sent electronically to our S-VE families and will be available on our website, as well as linked on social media. If you do not have a student in the district but would like to be added to our electronic newsletters, please email sveinfo@svecsd.org.

We acknowledge that some community members may prefer to receive newsletters by mail. If you would like to continue receiving newsletters by mail, please contact the District Office at 589-7100 and provide your name and mailing address.



Get involved!

Budget Advisory Committee: email sveinfo@svecsd.org to sign up

Mental Health Task Force: email sveinfo@svecsd.org to sign up

Upcoming Events:

2/2/21: Virtual Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

2/5/21: Virtual Family Literacy Night for the Elementary School

2/11/21: BOE Meeting

2/12/21: *[Title of Show]* Virtual High School Musical (tickets required) www.svecsd.org

2/12/21: *[Title of Show]* Virtual High School Musical (tickets required) www.svecsd.org

2/18/21: Virtual Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

2/25/21: BOE Meeting

3/16/21: Capital Project Vote
Transportation Vote

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S-VE Families and Community,

Reflecting on the past 10 months, the perseverance and flexibility of our students, staff, parents/guardians and community at large inspires me. Throughout this pandemic, we have seen continual changes in the mandates which have been challenging to navigate. In partnership with our staff, our administration continues to address and overcome each obstacle so we can continue to provide the best educational plan possible. The majority of our district communications with our families have been based on the pandemic and the daily flow around meeting the needs of our students. Although the work during this pandemic has been challenging and all encompassing, we continue to look beyond COVID and strive to achieve our district goals.

A few highlights to share with the community. We were excited this fall to be able to offer free meals to our students through the Summer Food Service Program. Free breakfast and lunch are offered to all student through the rest of this school year. Students need only go through the serving line to get a meal. Easy as can be! We encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity this school year.

We continue to make progress on ensuring our families get access to internet, most recently by partnering with Haeefe. We appreciate all Haeefe is doing to assist our families.

Within this newsletter, you will read about district work being done and how it is tied back to our *District Goals*. A main focus has been on prepping for an upcoming Smart Schools and Capital Project.

The district is currently working on communications focused solely on the Capital Project Proposal, including a newsletter, a Frequently Asked Questions document and a virtual tour of the project. A Public Hearing will be held prior to the upcoming *vote on March 16, 2021*. We thank the community for their approval of the capital reserve because when combined with remaining funds from the Smart Schools project will offset the cost of the project.

As always, we welcome community input. Please reach out to sveinfo@svecsd.org with any questions, concerns or ideas.

We appreciate your support.

Be well,

Diahann Hesler

Diahann Hesler

Superintendent of Schools





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District Goal: S-VE will increase awareness, interest and involvement by encouraging collaborative efforts to develop school spirit and community pride.

Our schools are the hub of our community. We take great pride in our well-kept buildings and grounds; however, there comes a time when you need to invest in the longevity of your structures, which will ensure a good solid foundation for future generations. Now is our time.

Smart Schools Project - Grant Funded

Our 5 year **Smart Schools Project** is nearing completion. An upgraded door access system was installed throughout the district to provide increased security, including badges with built-in access, as well as upgrades to security cameras and installation of new servers.

In the summer of 2021, you will see construction taking place at the main entrance of the middle school, as we invest in safety by creating a secure vestibule. Additional doors will be added in the new secure vestibule to limit access to hallways and redirect traffic to an office area with a transaction window.

The Smart Schools Project will be completed with no impact to our taxpayers, as this funding stream is provided by an approved bond by New York State. These funds are required to be used toward updating safety, security and technology for schools. The remaining funds from this grant of \$323,325 will be applied to our upcoming Capital Project.

Capital Project Proposal - Upcoming vote on March 16, 2021

A proposed Capital Project, focused on health and safety, will go to the community for a vote on March 16th, 2021, as approved at the January 14 Board of Education Meeting. Prior to implementing a Capital Project, the district completed a comprehensive Building Condition Survey (BCS) conducted by our architects. The BCS examines all aspects of the school district, conducts ratings on safety, and generates the priorities needing to be addressed in a capital project. The outcome of any BCS is a systemic focus on infrastructure, which much of our district's electrical, plumbing, HVAC, boilers, etc. are at the end of their useful life or beyond repair in order to maintain operation. Our facilities team has done an amazing job at sustaining our structures but we are at the point where things can no longer be repaired, now needing to be replaced.

All safety and code compliance items will be updated through the proposed Capital Project, as well as much needed attention to safety and security with the creation of a secure vestibules in the high school and elementary school. This project will create a solid foundation, investing in our building structures, so they last for years to come.

The cost of the proposed Capital Project is \$15,770,000; however, the impact to taxpayers is about \$30/year on a \$100,000 home with STAR and \$42/year on a \$100,000 home without STAR.

Transportation Vote - Upcoming vote on March 16, 2021

In an effort to be fiscally responsible with our community resources, the district researched ways to better manage our school bus fleet. The district analyzed our current five-year replacement plan of purchasing buses outright or moving to a seven-year purchasing replacement plan. After conducting this review, the Board determined the most fiscally responsible option for the district is the seven-year purchasing replacement plan. By making this transition, it will allow the district to contain the ever increasing expense of purchasing school buses while maintaining the safety of our fleet and continuing to maximize the transportation aid to the district. If you would like to see the presentation, you can view it on the district website from the January 14, 2021 BOE Meeting.



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District Goal: S-VE will cultivate creative, problem solving and future ready citizens through rich experiences and positive relationships.

Education during a pandemic certainly looks different than pre-COVID times. During the first half of the school year, we split our in-person learners into two cohorts to accommodate the mandates and guidance we received to create an environment conducive to safety and learning for our staff and students. Our students, families and staff have become familiar with Schoology, SchoolTool and Zoom. The additional work that has been added to our students, staff and families due to this pandemic has been immeasurable; however, we continue to navigate through isolated COVID cases, technology barriers, financial stressors, student engagement concerns, and more. Without the ongoing collaboration with our families, none of this would have been possible. We have been diligently planning to combine our two cohorts and offer in-person learning 4 days per week to our students. We know that each family has different concerns around COVID and will continue to offer 100% distance learning as an option. The elementary school returned to 4 days a week in-person learning on January 19th and the other two buildings will follow upon their next marking period change. We are excited to welcome our students back!

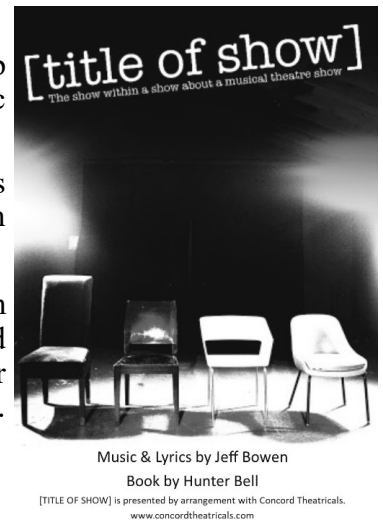
Athletics, both SVE and SVEC sports, were awaiting release of high-risk sports from Governor Cuomo. Until then, off-season workouts are being offered 4 days a week at the high school and Wednesdays at the middle school. Off-season workouts are open to ALL 7th—12th grade students regardless of whether they participate in sports. High-risk sports practices and competitions are postponed until we get further word from the state. Bowling is currently available through SVEC.

Athletes as Role Models is accepting applications at this time and will begin meeting the first week of February. Any student-athletes interested can fill out an application through the link on the Athletics page of our district website.

Two Junior athletes will be chosen to attend a virtual NYSPHSAA Leadership Conference on March 5th. Representatives will be chosen by coaches and the Athletic Director.

The IAC will be holding a food drive the first week of practice, once that is determined. Food items can be brought to the Athletic Director's Office at the high school and will be donated directly to the local food pantry.

A Musical, titled *[Title of Show]* will take place virtually on February 12th and 13th at 7pm. *[Title of Show]* showcases two small casts. The livestream will be operated and facilitated in conjunction with the Broadcast Journalism courses. To cover production costs, tickets can be purchased for the livestream for \$10 per device. Details will be available on our website.



District Goal: S-VE will invest in and support social-emotional well-being, academic growth and community through meaningful connections.

The work of the **Mental Health Task Force** was put on pause because of the pandemic; however, the District is looking to resume this much needed work. Community members who had committed to the task force last year and are still interested in continuing the work will resume meeting soon. Any community members interested in joining the Mental Health Task Force, please email sveinfo@svecsd.org for more information.

The district will also begin a partnership with Pat Breux, Director of Youth and School Initiatives from the Office of Mental Health of NYS to address on-going mental health concerns for our school community.