

# **GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **NEWS**

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

### **HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL FACILITY AND RELOCATION PLAN UPDATE**

***Hamilton Avenue School will be closed for one week:  
Monday, March 3, 2008 through Friday, March 7, 2008.***

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Betty J. Sternberg:

“I continue to understand and appreciate how frustrating and difficult this situation is for the families of Hamilton Avenue School. Greenwich Public Schools staff, students and families from throughout the District are working around the clock to ensure that the relocation schools are ready to receive students on Monday (March 10<sup>th</sup>). We would also like to acknowledge and thank the many community organizations for their generosity in reaching out to offer resources and support for the families of Hamilton Avenue School.”

Dr. Sternberg continued, “While the test results we have received so far indicate that students and staff were not exposed to any health hazards, since we now know that mold exists throughout most of the soffits and the insides of the exterior walls at the modulars, we must remediate. We have taken the safest and most expeditious route and closed the school in order to properly remediate the building without risk of exposure to students and staff. We will continue to provide updates as we receive information and will be providing an update to the community and the Board of Education at their March 13, 2008 Work Session.”

### **Hamilton Avenue School Relocation Plan:**

<b>HAS Grade</b>	<b># Sections</b>	<b>Receiving School</b>
PreK (Ingham & Daniels)	2	Old Greenwich
PreK (Wilkinson & Mackey)	2	North Street
Kindergarten	4	Glenville
Grade 1 & Grade 1/2	4	Parkway
Grade 2, Grade 3 & Grade 3/4	5	Cos Cob
Grade 4 & Grade 5	4	Western Middle School

#### ***\* The Relocation Plan***

- provides for all students to remain with their current classroom teacher
- keeps grade levels together except for split classes
- maintains current class size at HAS and across the district
- minimizes time out of school for HAS students

***\* A Relocation Plan Parent Packet*** was sent to parents today (Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>). The Packet includes:

- Letter outlining HAS teacher room numbers in the relocation school, etc.
- Relocation School Contact Information
- Pick Up Information Form
- Bus Routes
- Directions to Relocation Sites
- An Identification Badge for every student

***\* The Principals and staff of receiving schools have been busy getting classrooms ready and working with District and HAS administration to schedule programs and services for the incoming Hamilton Avenue students. A letter went home to the families of the receiving schools from each Principal last night (Tuesday, March 4).***

***\* Storage pods were ordered and scheduled for delivery beginning today for the receiving schools, providing much needed storage space for rooms that are being re-purposed to serve the HAS classes.***

***\* Remediation of desks and chairs from the modulars have been completed and they were scheduled to be moved into the relocation schools today.***

### **Transportation:**

District administration has developed a plan that will provide bus service for Hamilton Avenue students Grades K-5. The bus routes enable parents to select one bus stop to use for all of their children. Preschool parents have been contacted individually to make arrangements for transportation. The Breakfast Club program will resume on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and will be located at Western Middle School (WMS), with a bus leaving from WMS to go to each of the relocation schools.

### **Important Dates/Events:**

#### **OPEN HOUSE FOR HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL STAFF AND FAMILIES:**

##### **Pre-Kindergarten:**

*North Street:* Wilkinson & Mackey - Friday, March 7, 2008 3:30-4:10 p.m.

*Old Greenwich:* Ingham & Daniels - Friday, March 7, 2008 3:30-4:10 p.m.

##### **Kindergarten:**

*Glenville:* Thursday, March 6, 2008 6:00-6:40 p.m.

##### **First Grade and First/Second Grade Split:**

*Parkway:* Friday, March 7, 2008 6:00-6:40 p.m.

##### **Second Grade, Third Grade, and Third/Fourth Grade Split:**

*Cos Cob:* Thursday, March 6, 2008 5:00-5:40 p.m.

##### **Fourth and Fifth Grades**

*Western Middle School:* Thursday, March 6, 2008 3:30-4:10 p.m.

#### **HAMILTON AVENUE PARENT MEETINGS:**

Saturday, March 8, 2008 – Western Middle School Cafeteria – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

***OR***

Saturday, March 8, 2008 – Western Middle School Cafeteria – 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **Facility Update:**

\* Air quality test results received today indicate acceptable air quality in the ‘occupied space,’ that is, inside the rooms at the Hamilton Avenue School modulars. These tests were taken in a representative sampling of rooms throughout the building. This is the third set of test results that have indicated that the air quality in the ‘occupied space’ is at acceptable levels.

### **Childcare for Week of March 3-7, 2008:**

\* The child care opportunity at Boys and Girls Club is successfully underway for approximately 75 Hamilton Avenue School students.

\* Family Centers and the Children’s Day Center have both generously offered space for this week. District and HAS administration are contacting families individually to arrange for these childcare options.

### **Hamilton Avenue School Staff:**

\* HAS staff will report to work at the Havemeyer Building beginning Thursday, March 6, 2008.

### **Board of Education:**

\* The Board of Education’s *Special Committee on Facilities will meet on Friday, March 7, 2008* at 4:30 PM at the Havemeyer Building.

\* The Board of Education’s *March 13, 2008 Work Session* Agenda has been changed to include

a public hearing, an update on the Hamilton Avenue Relocation Plan, a discussion and possible action on the Glenville Relocation. The meeting has been moved to Central Middle School and will begin at 7:00 PM in the auditorium.

Updates are posted to a dedicated page on the District site daily and/or as they become available. Go to [www.greenwichschools.org](http://www.greenwichschools.org) and follow the link on the home page.

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