

GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS LETTER #1, VOL. III
OCTOBER 10, 1952

The purpose of this News Letter is to bring you up to date with the happy, rapidly moving events taking place in your school district during the past few months. Here's the good news.

ENROLLMENT

During 1951, the total enrollment of all grades attending district schools was 980 in 14 buildings. Through the rental of five new annexes, your board has been able to provide facilities for many more pupils. This includes 247 children in kindergartens. The advent of these kindergartens has made available to eligible children in the district, for the first time, this most important beginning in education. The present total enrollment in our schools is 1,266 in Grades K-12.

Another very important aspect of the large increase in enrollment, including the kindergartens, is that this enrollment is substantially increased in a crucial year to you. Crucial from the standpoint that the State Aid for your building program and to some extent operation of your schools in the 1953-1954 school year is vitally affected by this years enrollment.

MC KOWNVILLE-WESTMERE SCHOOL

No doubt you were all thrilled as were all of the members of your Board of Education, with the ground breaking ceremonies at the site of this project on Wednesday, September 10, 1952. Of more practical and economical interest to you should be the sum total of the contracts awarded to the low bidders for this construction. They are as follows:

	NAME	AMOUNT
General Construction	J. Lansing Finlay Co.	\$463,200
Heating Construction	Mc Conville, Inc.	59,962
Plumbing Construction	A. J. Eckert	51,216
Electric Construction	E. J. May, Inc.	38,503
Sewerage Construction	A. Michell	13,900
Water Supply Construction	A. J. Eckert	20,039
	TOTAL	646,820

It is apparent by comparison of the architects estimates or the sum allocated for this project and the sum total of the awarded low bids, that a saving of \$75,000 will be enjoyed on this building.

FORT HUNTER & ALTAMONT SCHOOLS

The Board is happy to give you the following figures of low bidders and awards for these two structures.

	NAME	AMOUNT
General Construction	Oswald Construction, Inc.	\$578,800
Heating Construction	Cohn & Kramer	78,431
Plumbing Construction	Tougher Plumbing Co.	50,438
Sewerage Construction	August Bohl	14,800
Water Supply Construction	A. J. Eckert Co.	17,393
Electric Construction	Keeler	55,620
	TOTAL	795,482

The sum total of these awards compares favorably with the architects' estimates of cost and amount allocated for the work. This figure was \$800,100. Unless extraordinary unforeseen complications arise, the Mc Kownville-Westmere School and the schools at Altamont and Fort Hunter should be completed and ready for use by September, 1953.

HIGH SCHOOL

Our architects, Perkins & Will, are hard at work on working plans and specifications for the Junior-Senior High School. It is anticipated that bids on this, the largest school, will be opened sometime in December, 1952. Since it will not be possible to commence construction in the winter and in any event not possible to complete construction by September, 1953, actual work will not begin until the Spring. Completion will be scheduled for as early a date as possible.

TRANSPORTATION

Although many of you parents may have been comparing our transportation system during the first few days with the old Toonerville trolley, your patience and our planning have worked out. District-owned school busses are now carrying approximately 1,500 pupils to 30 different school locations. Our drivers have become acquainted with all the children and the many schools which they attend. You may be assured that every effort is being made to reduce the travel time of all pupils, and still provide safe transportation.

On September 12th the second of the two sixty passenger busses, authorized at the annual meeting, arrived. These two busses will do much to smooth out our problem. It is expected that old #8 will retire to the role of a spare.

FACULTY

No doubt many of you have already come into contact with John Ether, the latest addition to our staff. He is working towards his doctorate on a fellowship from the Kellogg Foundation at Columbia University. To complete his work in this connection, he is serving a practical internship this school year as assistant to our supervising principal, Ralph Westervelt. He already has proven himself invaluable with his many fine constructive suggestions and his ability to meet and solve the many problems that have arisen in his daily work.

Our teaching staff has been increased by three kindergarten and five elementary teachers and three high school instructors. Your Board is proud of the present teaching staff and feels unanimously that the district has the necessary nucleus to build the outstanding organization necessary to serve you and your children in future years.

ELECTION DAY

The Mc Kownville Brick School, Parkers Corners School, Altamont Firehouse, American Legion Hall, and Guilderland Center office will be used as Polling Places on Election Day. There will be no classes in session in those buildings on November 4.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

American Education Week will be November 9-15, 1952. All parents are invited to visit the schools during that week. Teachers and principals will be most happy to show you your schools in action.

TEACHERS' CONVENTION

The Eastern Zone Teachers' Meeting will be held in Albany on October 17. No classes will be in session on that date.

TAX RATES

The assessed valuation for the Guilderland Central School District this year is \$7,758,718. Since the State has set the ratio at 70% for Guilderland, and 67% for Bethlehem and New Scotland, the tax rate this year will be \$30.70 per thousand for Guilderland, and \$32.08 per thousand for Bethlehem and New Scotland. Former district number 14, Town of Guilderland will be taxed for their final payment on an old debt making their tax rate \$32.04 for the school year 1952-1953.