



## SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Plan Update PHASE THREE

April 2022

### Message from the Superintendent of Schools

In March of 2014, our community came together to enthusiastically support the first of three referenda called for in the South Windsor Public Schools Ten-Year Elementary Facilities Plan. Eight years later, we have since passed two additional referenda and built three schools on time and under budget! This is worthy of celebration. With all of the moving parts that accompany a highly complex facilities plan, even a ten-month plan can easily be derailed by countless obstacles or delays, let alone a ten-year plan. Yet, we are now in the final stages of fully executing the ten-year, four-school plan on the very timeline we announced back in 2013 when the plan was adopted. Following a plan with fidelity and achieving the intended outcomes over a ten-year period is a highly unusual accomplishment and many are to be credited: the Board of Education, the Public Building Commission, the Town Council, BOE and town staff, our project professionals which include, Colliers International, Gilbane Building Company, Drummey Rosane Anderson (DRA) architects, Moser Pilon Nelson architects, AND last (but certainly not least) the residents of South Windsor and the countless community volunteers that made this all possible.

This newsletter serves as an update for our community of the early progress of the new Pleasant Valley School. While the PV project is currently on schedule, it is important to note we will continue to face challenges associated with COVID-related delays and supply chain issues.

On February 5, the South Windsor community celebrated the groundbreaking of our fourth and final elementary school: Pleasant Valley. Despite frigid temperatures, students, families, residents, BOE and town staff, and elected officials at the state and local level all gathered to be a part of this important milestone.

The groundbreaking was a truly inspiring event and a great kick-off for Phase Three construction. The event also served as an opportunity for me to publicly thank our town leaders, project professionals and the South Windsor community. Specifically, I shared my sincere appreciation for the leadership of our Board of Education, Town Council and the Public Building Commission in particular for the countless hours they have dedicated to the project. Board of Education Chairman Craig Zimmerman, Mayor Liz Pendleton, community leader Daria Plummer, and Pleasant Valley Associate Principal Alicia Farris all shared their thoughts on the significance of this celebratory event.

Please enjoy the photos on the following pages, as well as other updates relating to early construction progress and our increasing enrollment.

Sincerely,

*KATE CARTER*

Kate Carter, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PLEASANT VALLEY GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION

Saturday, February 5, 2022



The Pleasant Valley PTO created blue and gold hearts for students and families to sign and share good wishes for the PV project. The hearts were “planted” in front of the school and posted on the corridor walls inside the building.



Community members wave for the camera and join in the excitement of the day!





Student ambassadors from all four elementary schools participated in the ceremony



Public Building Commission members (L-R): Craig Zimmerman, Miguel Proano, Ed O'Connell, and PBC Chairman Matthew Montana



Families joining in the groundbreaking



Senator Anwar, Councilors Andy Paterna, Marek Kozikowski, and Karen Lydecker; Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kate Carter; Mayor Liz Pendleton, Councilor Erica Evans, Deputy Mayor Stephen King, and State Representative Jeff Currey



# PLEASANT VALLEY GROUNDBREAKING



Mayor Liz Pendleton speaks to the audience



Mayor Pendleton presents a proclamation to Superintendent Kate Carter



BOE Chairman, Craig Zimmerman , provides remarks alongside fellow board members



Associate Principal Alicia Farris addresses families



Daria Plummer enthusiastically champions the success of the Ten-Year Plan

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022



Parents and students sign well wishes for PV



Students sign commemorative banner



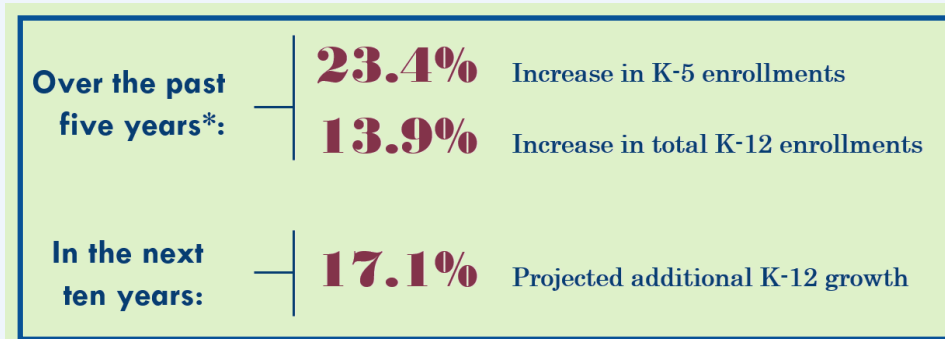
Students and parents explore the architect's renderings





# SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT

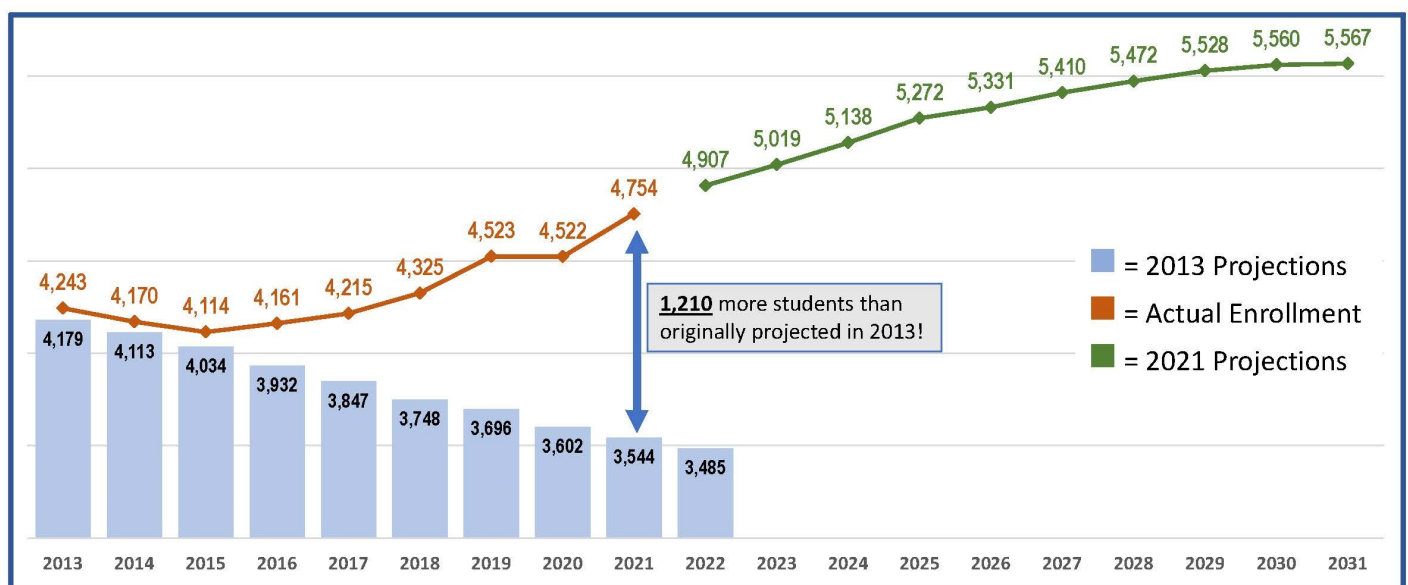
When the Ten-Year Plan was adopted in 2013, South Windsor had been experiencing declining enrollment for more than a decade. In 2016, that trend reversed and over the past five years, we have experienced unprecedented enrollment growth and are among the fastest growing K-12 districts in the state of Connecticut:



The chart below illustrates historical and projected district enrollment (grades PK-12). In 2013, the enrollment projections called for declining enrollment to continue through 2022 (blue bars). The orange trend line shows actual enrollment during the course of the Plan to date. It is noteworthy that our current October 1, 2021 enrollment is 1,210 more students than originally projected.

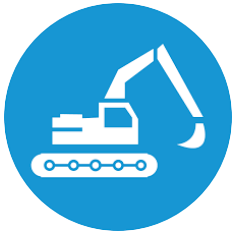
Today, our demographers (SLAM Collaborative) project that increasing enrollment is expected to continue through 2031, calling for 813 more students than are enrolled today.

The enrollment growth has certainly presented challenges in the execution of the ten-year plan, but the staggered approach to the plan did help mitigate some of those challenges. It is important to note that Pleasant Valley is the only school that was designed *after* the enrollment growth phenomenon emerged. When constructed, Pleasant Valley will be our largest school serving 693 K-5 students and 110 preschool students.



SWHS current enrollment:	<b>1,310</b>	Projected to increase by	<b>476</b>	students in 2030
TEMS current enrollment:	<b>1,145</b>	Projected to increase by	<b>236</b>	students in 2030
Elementary school current enrollment:	<b>2,202</b>	Projected to increase by	<b>81</b>	students in 2030

\*Current enrollment as of 10/1/2021; projections based on SLAM Collaborative Projection Report, November 2021



Construction of the new Pleasant Valley is well underway. The aerial photo below was taken by our construction professionals in March, and shows the outline of the new building on property adjacent to the existing campus.



## PHASE THREE MILESTONES TO-DATE

- 10/2019** Educational Specifications approved by BOE
- 3/2020** Phase Three Referendum passed by SW residents
- 3/2020** Public Building Commission (PBC) appointed by Town Council
- 6/2020** Drummey Rosane Anderson selected as architect
- 7/2020** Colliers International selected as Owner's Rep
- 10/2020** Gilbane Building Company selected as Construction Manager
- 12/2020** Community Informational Meeting held
- 12/2020** Informational Meeting for Pleasant Valley families
- 12/2020** Schematic Design documents approved by PBC
- 5/2021** Design Development and Estimate Reconciliation and Plans approved by PBC
- 6/2021** Phase Three School Construction Grant filed
- 7/2021** Planning & Zoning Commission approved project
- 7/2021** Third Party Code Reviewer appointed by the PBC
- 7/2021** Third Party Structural Consultant appointed by PBC
- 9/2021** Final Construction Documents and Cost Estimate approved by PBC and BOE
- 10/2021** Final Plans approved by State of CT OSCGR
- 2/2022** Pleasant Valley Groundbreaking

### **SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

#### **Board of Education**

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 Beth Esstman, Secretary  
 Arthur Adduci  
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 Darrell Crowley  
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### **South Windsor Public Schools**

1737 Main Street  
 South Windsor, CT 06074  
 Phone: (860) 291-1200 • Fax: (860) 291-1291  
[www.southwindsorschools.org](http://www.southwindsorschools.org)