

## **Elmont School District Bond Project Update**

**2/23/24**

It has been two years and four months since the public voted for the capital bond in November 2021.

It took approximately seventeen (17) months for the architects and engineers to develop over nine hundred individual plans for the six buildings. It took another eleven (11) months for the New York State Education Department to approve the plans. In June of 2023, the District received the building permits for the six school buildings. The bond projects include security booths and entrances (project completed), all new heating and air-conditioning systems, new-dedicated outdoor air systems, building management systems, fire alarm systems, new ceilings, LED lighting, built-in furniture in classrooms, classroom wallboards, painting, and new student restrooms. The Bond also includes removing asbestos-containing materials being exposed when the built-in furniture, ceilings, and walls are removed. All asbestos removal is performed when no students or staff are in the buildings. Before re-entering the building after the asbestos removal, the District's Environmental Consulting firm must give air clearance based on laboratory testing results, which follow the NYS Department of Labor regulations. The construction included in the Bond will significantly improve the school safety, air quality, and learning environment. The new restrooms will replace the ones initially installed in the building (60 to 85 years old). The new restrooms will be ADA-compliant. The new fire alarm systems will cover 100% of the buildings; the existing ones don't cover the classrooms, which are approximately 65 percent of the building. The fire alarm systems will meet the current fire codes.

After receiving the building permits, the District started the required bidding process and awarded the construction bids and contracts at the Board meeting on October 16, 2023. From October 17, 2023, to January 22, 2024, the contractors submitted their bonds, insurance and started the submittal process of getting architects' and engineers' approvals for all materials and equipment used in the project.

Before starting any construction, the District's construction management (CM) firm worked closely with the individual schools' management teams to develop contractor workers' procedures, work schedules, and site plans for storage trailers, office trailers, and portable toilets. The CM's office worked with the school administrators to develop construction-phasing plans. The plans included developing classroom swing spaces that will be used temporarily while the classrooms are reconstructed.

On January 22, 2024, the construction started at each school building. All work is scheduled after regular school hours, on weekends, and during school days off. Each school building has between one and four classroom swing spaces. Stewart Manor has one, Covert Avenue, Clara H Carlson, Dutch Broadway, and Alden Terrace have two, and Gotham Avenue has four classroom swing spaces.

Thirteen (13) classrooms and eleven (11) multiple-stall restrooms are currently under construction. The eleven classrooms in Phase 1 will be reconstructed in seven to eight weeks. The restroom construction is scheduled to take twelve (12) weeks. It has been over five weeks since construction started. The nighttime construction in the six school buildings has minimal effect on the school operations during the day. The school's administrators were satisfied with the construction being accomplished in the evenings and were excited that the project was starting.