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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release 14-022

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New Paltz, New York

New Paltz Central School District
Declares Opposition to
Sewage Treatment Plant at
High School Athletic Fields

“Child health and safety are paramount and we intend to insure that students and staff are not jeopardized by the siting of a sewage treatment plant next to the High School,” said Superintendent Maria Rice. The December 3, 2014 meeting of Board of Education was the first time members became aware of plans that the Town of New Paltz intends to site a sewage treatment plant adjacent to the New Paltz High School and its athletic fields.

The Superintendent and members of the Board of Education are concerned about potential health and safety risks posed by the treatment of raw sewage in close proximity to areas where children play sports. Further, there was deep concern over the lack of transparent, responsible and ethical deliberations by the Town in the siting of this sewage treatment plant.

To this end, the Board of Education passed a resolution declaring its strong opposition to the proposed plant for reasons of health, safety and welfare of students and staff and called upon the Town to discontinue its current plans and permit the Board and school community to study the impact and alternative locations.

Board President Brian Cournoyer stated, “We expect from the Town of New Paltz full disclosure of all environmental and engineering studies and plans developed to date. Further, we expect all discussions on this matter to be held in public consistent with law, with opportunities for the Board, the school community, and the general public to participate in the discussion and voice its opinions.”

Information about the proposed siting of a Town of New Paltz sewage treatment plant adjacent to the New Paltz High School and its athletic fields can be found at <http://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/sewagetreatment>, including a video clip of the Board of Education’s public discussion about this health and safety issue.

Questions regarding this media release may be directed to Dusti Callo, District Clerk, at 256-4031.
