

April 28, 2023

Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff, Administrators, and Community Members,

I hope everything has gone well for you since my last update on the happenings at the New Paltz Central School District. Here are a few more recent items I would like to bring to your attention:

### **The Former District Office**

The former district office at 196 Main St. is a large blue building situated in the middle school parking lot. This building is vacant at this time and it has not been used by the school district in several years. Its appearance and its structural integrity have deteriorated greatly over the years to the point where it is at best, an eye sore, and at worst, a safety hazard.



The district's facilities committee has been discussing ways to deal with the former district office. There seems to be two obvious options. One option is to demolish the building. The other option is to renovate the building for use by the district.

In an effort to make an educated decision, the facilities committee asked the CPL Architectural firm to give them a cost estimate of the two options listed above. Here are the recommendations from their report:

### **Recommendations**

While overall, the building is in fair to poor condition, there is opportunity to salvage it for reuse. The probable project cost, which includes construction (hard) costs and incidental (soft) costs to repair and renovate the building assuming the same layout and configuration is \$2,472,614.

The probable project cost which includes construction (hard) costs and incidental (soft) costs to demolish the building in its entirety and create either expanded parking facilities for the Middle School or restore the area with landscaping is approximately \$400,000 to \$475,000.

If the building continues to be left unoccupied and in its current state, the property will suffer further deterioration and may become a neighborhood nuisance. Given there is no immediate use to the district and based on the costs outlined above, we would recommend demolition of the building.

During the budget process, the school board considered the upcoming expenses that will be incurred as we proceed with either option 1 or option 2. The board was adamant that the time has come to do something with this building and that waiting longer creates a safety concern and brings about the likelihood that the cost of the work will continue to increase the longer we wait. The board ear-marked \$475,000 (including a \$100,000 mini-capital project) in the proposed budget to address the district office problem.

The future of the building will be discussed at the next board meeting and a decision is likely. Therefore, the school board would like to hear any comments the community would like to share on this topic. If you have an opinion to express on whether or not the former district office should be renovated or removed, please send me an email and I will share it with the board. Alternatively, you are welcome to come to the board meeting on May 3rd at 6:30 pm and express your views during the public comment session.

### **The Budget Vote**

There will be a final budget presentation on May 3rd at 6:30 pm. This will be followed by the regular board meeting and the discussion on the district office. The budget vote will take place on May 16th from 7 am until 9 pm in the high school gym.

### **The Circus is coming to town, a message from the New Paltz Youth Center**

Back by popular demand! After a three year absence, the circus is coming back to town! On Saturday, May 6 at 2 pm the Billy Martin Circus returns to the New Paltz's High School Gymnasium. The Billy Martin indoor circus is designed as a fund-raising event for school groups and organizations across New York State and this year's proceeds will benefit the New Paltz Youth Center.

The performance features variety acts including jugglers, trapeze, unicycles, balancers, comedy, novelty and specialty acts. Advance tickets are \$18 only through Eventbrite. Children under the age of 12 admitted free accompanied by an adult (up to two children). Tickets at the door are \$25 and each adult ticket is good for two free tickets for kids 12 and under as well. You can also buy tickets at the Youth Center in advance for \$20.

### Middle School Blood Drive

The middle school is holding a blood drive this weekend. Here are the details:



**Saturday 4/29/23**  
**9:00am – 1:30pm**

New Paltz Middle School  
Auditorium  
196 Main St., New Paltz, NY

Signup [nybc.org](https://nybc.org), call 1-800-933-2566 or scan qr code



Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.  
Please remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.  
Masks are optional for all donors.  
For full list of COVID-19 safety protocols, please visit [nybc.org/coronavirus](https://nybc.org/coronavirus).



800.933.BLOOD • [nybc.org](https://nybc.org) [#nybloodcenter](https://twitter.com/nybloodcenter)





## Middle School Art and Music Festival

Don't miss the big event:



## Ulster County Bus Driver of the Year

Congratulations to our own Tersa Faso who was named the Ulster County Bus Driver of the year: She was given her award at a ceremony in Kingston on Thursday morning.



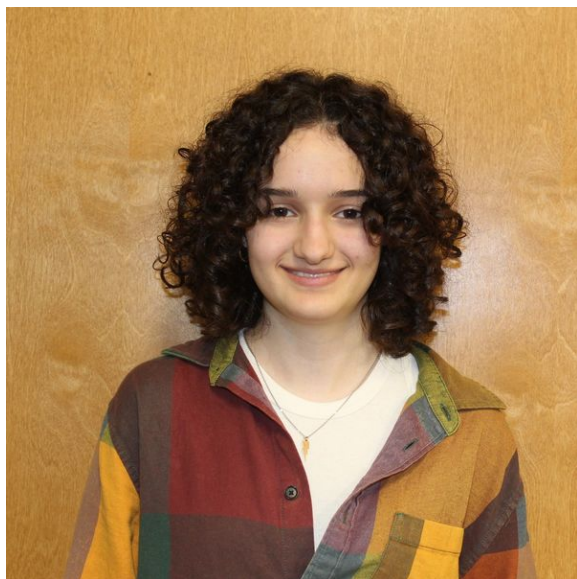


Thanks to the New Paltz staff members (including some former bus drivers of the year) and other New Paltz community members for coming out and recognizing Tera for her great work.



### **Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced**

Please join us in congratulating the High School's top two academic leaders for the Class of 2023: Valedictorian Sofia Loyer of New Paltz and Salutatorian Lauren Stolfe of Gardiner!



Thank you for reading this update. Please let me know if you have any questions or thoughts to share. I can be reached at [sgratto@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:sgratto@newpaltz.k12.ny.us).

Best wishes,

Stephen Gratto - Superintendent