

November, 2016

Dear Community Members:

For the last few months, we've been talking about Horseheads 2030, a comprehensive project to improve both our educational program and physical infrastructure. We have now reached a time for action with our entire school district community, and we welcome all to become involved in order to help shape the future of our school district.

Our neighboring districts have undergone many major capital improvement projects in recent years, committing hundreds of millions of dollars towards their facilities. Horseheads, unfortunately, has only completed relatively small projects during the last decade. Our facilities are an important aspect of our educational programming if we are to continue being the district of choice for families moving into the area, and to keep our property values at the level they have been in past years.

Last December, you told us – by an overwhelming margin (84% voted NO) – that you want our district to stay the Horseheads Central School District. Last spring, the district determined the internal consolidation of schools would not yield major financial gains for the community and, therefore, finalized the green plan of no school closures at this time. Now we must consider moving forward in order to discuss what we want the Horseheads Central School District to look like, both educationally and physically, in the future. Therefore, we are developing a district initiative entitled:

HORSEHEADS 2030

Please mark your calendar:

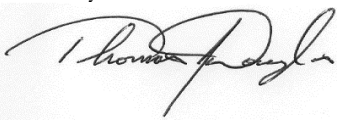
Date:	December 6, 2016
Time:	6:30 p.m.
Where:	High School Auditorium
Why:	Initial community-wide discussion about Horseheads 2030

We named the project Horseheads 2030 because this year's pre-kindergartners will graduate in the year 2030. Our efforts will not only benefit those students, but all students in our schools as we work to improve our district and educational programs. Horseheads has long been considered an excellent district for the quality of education we offer our students, but our facilities are aging. Our children and our community deserve facilities that keep up with the changing times and enhance the education we offer. Our athletic teams and community programs use our facilities, and they are in and out of the buildings extensively. Like in our schools, these facilities are showing significant wear and are not up-to-date. Many of the critical operating systems in our schools are original to the buildings and starting to fail. Many of our current classrooms are undersized and cannot seat all the students in a class. Our science rooms are small and not equipped for the latest in lab experiments. Additionally, today's technology landscape is entirely different, and our schools must keep up in order to allow our students to have the best education we can give them in today's global connectedness.

Our next step is to open the process up to our community. We need you to join the discussion in order to help us sort through district needs and wants for both our educational program and our facilities. There will be additional meetings in the coming months, but we hope you will come out and join us at the start as we work together to enhance our great district.

Thank you for your support of our students and their education. Thank you for giving your time to help us build on the excellence that is the Horseheads Central School District—for our students now, and our students of Horseheads 2030 and beyond!

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools

“Quality Education for All”

The Mission of the Horseheads Central School Community is to provide a quality education for all within a nurturing environment which promotes excellence, growth, and a sense of civic responsibility.