

# The Eagles' view

Whitney Point Central  
School District Newsletter



Whitney Point Central School District Newsletter

March 2013

## Important information regarding the Annual Bus Vote

In its continuing efforts to find efficiencies, the Whitney Point Central School District is asking voters to approve the purchase of two 65 passenger propane buses; one 65 passenger diesel bus; and one 66 passenger diesel bus not to exceed a total cost of \$350,735. Taxpayers are only responsible for approximately 10 percent of this cost, with state aid covering the remaining 90 percent. Each bus is slightly used with mileage not exceeding 8-10 thousand miles. By choosing used buses, the district will save approximately \$100,000.

In 2012, the district purchased one propane bus and the economic and environmental benefits have been noticeable. Propane burns cleaner than gasoline or diesel fuel, promoting clean energy. It is also less expensive and causes less wear and tear on bus components. A propane bus averages 4.7 miles per gallon and the district currently pays \$1.38 a gallon for propane. A diesel bus averages 6.5 miles per gallon but the district currently pays \$3.65 per gallon for diesel. This makes the savings for using a propane bus \$.27 a mile. As part of last year's propane bus purchase, a propane fueling station was installed at the Whitney Point bus garage.

The transportation fleet currently includes 35 large passenger buses, two suburban vehicles, four cars, six vans and four handicapped vans. Spare vehicles, a necessary part of the fleet, are used for sports trips, field trips and rotating other buses through regularly scheduled maintenance. The district purchases several vehicles each year as part of its replacement schedule and buses are replaced after approximately 11-14 years and have been driven 130,000 to 150,000 miles. By purchasing slightly used buses, the overall age of the fleet is reduced.



## Did You Know?

- Our buses traveled 566,000 miles during the 2011-12 school year.
- The buses make approximately 770 stops each day.
- Drivers are required to be 19A certified with a CDL Class B license with Passenger and School Bus endorsements; have annual physicals; submit to random drug and alcohol testing; receive biannual refresher training, and pass road tests every other year.
- Each bus goes through a 200 point DOT inspection twice a year. Our DOT approval rate in 2011-12 was 99.1%. (An excellent rating is considered to be 90% or higher.)
- The District's fueling station saves approximately \$.61 per gallon of diesel fuel. Roughly 78,500 gallons of fuel will be used during the year resulting in an estimated savings of \$47,900 for the 2012-13 school year.
- While the price of diesel fuel is often volatile, the cost of propane remains stable and allows for better budgeting.

## Annual Bus Vote March 19, 2013

When: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: High School cafeteria, 10 Keibel Road

Voters are asked to consider the purchase of two (2) used 65 passenger propane buses; one (1) used 65 passenger diesel bus; and one (1) used 66 passenger diesel bus.

### Voter Eligibility

No prior registration is required. The voter must be a citizen of the United States; at least 18 years of age; and a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the day of the vote.

### Absentee Ballot Information

Absentee ballots may be requested at the District Office. Absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on March 19, 2013.

**Board of Education**

Mrs. Sara Benscoter, President  
Mrs. Stephanie Champney, Vice President  
Mrs. Kathy Driscoll  
Mrs. Mary Ellerson  
Mr. Gene Paul Jordan  
Mr. Joseph Silvanic  
Mr. Thomas Tasber

**Superintendent of Schools**

Ms. Patricia Follette

**Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

Ms. Jo-Ann Sexton

**School Business Executive**

Mr. Zachary Woodard

ECRWSS  
Postal Patron

or Current Resident

## Kindergarten Registration Information

Children residing in the Whitney Point School District who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2013 are eligible to register for kindergarten. If your child is eligible:

- Call the Caryl E. Adams Main Office at 692-8241 by Friday, March 1 to be placed on the kindergarten mailing list.
- All kindergarten applications will be mailed on Monday, March 18 to the address requested.
- Attend the Parent Information Fair on Thursday, April 25 from 7-8 p.m. in the Caryl E. Adams cafeteria.
- Attend kindergarten registration beginning Monday, April 29 through Friday, May 3. Your designated day of registrations will be indicated on the application.

Please call the CEA Main Office at 692-8241 with any questions you may have.

### Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)

Children residing in the Whitney Point School District who will be four years old on or before December 1, 2013 are eligible to attend. We anticipate state funding for our program, which includes 60 children. We plan to have a morning and afternoon session in the Caryl E. Adams School with 15 students in each class. There will also be a morning and afternoon session at the Whitney Point Pre-School and Day Care Center with 15 students in the class. The state funding for this program will also cover transportation. If you would like your child to be considered for the UPK program:

- Call the Caryl E. Adams Main Office at 692-8241 by Thursday, May 2 to have your child placed on the UPK mailing list.
- All UPK applications will be mailed on Monday, May 6 to the address requested.
- Return your completed UPK application to the Caryl E. Adams Office, 24 Keibel Road, Whitney Point, NY 13862 by Thursday, May 23.

A random drawing will be held on Friday, June 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the CEA cafeteria. Parents are welcome to attend the drawing. A letter stating the results of the drawing will be mailed to all parents who submitted an application.

### Head Start Applications

Broome County Head Start is now accepting applications for its fall program for three and four-year-old children.

Head Start offers a comprehensive program providing services to children and families of various incomes. Four centers serve families in areas of Whitney Point, Chenango Forks, Chenango Valley, Deposit, Endicott, Endwell, Harpursville, Maine, Vestal and Windsor.

To make an appointment, receive more information, or obtain information regarding the new expanded eligibility guidelines, please call 772-6810.

## Election of Board of Education members

The Whitney Point Central School District has a seven member Board of Education. Members are elected to three year terms. Each year, the terms of two or three members expire. This year, Whitney Point residents will elect three Board of Education members. One of the Board seats up for re-election is currently held by president Mrs. Sara Benscoter. The other seats are currently held by trustees Mrs. Mary Ellerson and Mr. Joseph Silvanic.

Election of School Board members is held on the statewide Budget Vote Day on May 21. Residents interested in running for a seat on the Board of Education should stop in or contact the District Office for a petition. Completed petitions must be turned in to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on April 22.

A free public workshop will be offered on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. compliments of the Broome-Tioga School Boards Association. The workshop will include a panel of current school board members; a question and answer period; and take-home materials. A variety of topics will be covered including legal responsibilities, election procedures and expectations. The workshop will be held in the Instructional Support Center at Broome-Tioga BOCES in Conference Room A. Pre-registration is recommended. Call 766-3807 or 692-8313 for more information or to register for the workshop.