



Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
acleonard@ctreg14.org
www.ctreg14.org
Twitter: @R14Super
Instagram: region14schools

News Release

NHS Building Committee to host Ground Breaking Ceremony for Nonnewaug High School Renovation Project

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Bethlehem/Woodbury, CT -- The School Building Committee will host a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Nonnewaug High School Renovation Project on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Nonnewaug High School.

The ceremony will include guests from various Region 14 stakeholder groups including NHS faculty and staff, the Board of Education and Building Committee members, the First Selectmen of Bethlehem and Woodbury, members of the Region 14 administration as well as a handful of student leaders from the Nonnewaug High School community. Guests will also include members of the project management and design team from the S/L/A/M Collaborative and Colliers.

“This is a historic moment for our community,” said Building Committee Chairman John Chapman. “This day marks the conclusion of many years of persistence and the beginning of what was only imagined more than 10 years ago. Now it’s time to bring that vision to reality.”

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Anna Cutaia-Leonard added that the ground breaking realizes a dream a long time in the making for current and future students of Nonnewaug High School.

The voters in Bethlehem and Woodbury in 2013 approved a \$63.8 million renovation plan for Nonnewaug High School to bring the building up to standards to meet the needs of a modern high school program. The site designs and plans for infrastructure improvements will transform the entire 145,000 square foot Nonnewaug High School building into a state-of-the-art 21st century school facility by 2020.

“The students and staff are so excited for the work to get underway,” said Nonnewaug Principal Julie Luby. “We know that when the school is finished, it will be a showplace for the highest quality student learning.”

The project includes the design and renovation of 145,000 square feet on the current site of Nonnewaug High School. The renovations include programmatic improvements to areas including Liberal Arts, Visual & Performing Arts, STEM and Athletic areas as well as the creation of flexible classroom spaces for project-based, collaborative learning. Also included are operational improvements such as energy-efficient HVAC, electrical, and plumbing systems, as well as upgraded safety and security features and improved traffic flow that all meet ADA compliance and codes.

Due to project bids coming in approximately \$2.5 million under budget, the Building Committee was able to put back into the plan items that upgrade the school's athletic facilities. Items include a synthetic turf football field surrounded by a resprayed track, new stairs leading to the athletic fields, an outdoor restroom and concessions building at the fields, extra bleacher seating in the gym for athletes, and exterior metal panels to improve the coherence of the renovated building.

The project is being overseen by the Region 14 Building Committee, comprised of Board of Education members, school administrators, parents and leaders of the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury. They are working alongside consultants from the S/L/A/M Collaborative, Colliers and O&G who are managing the design, approval and construction process.

Construction will begin inside Nonnewaug High School during February break. Heavy construction work inside the building and on site will commence this summer. O&G aims to maximize productivity and minimize overtime costs over the summer with an extended six-day work week. The project is estimated to be completed by January of 2020.

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For more information on this press release, contact Maria Duncan at mduncan@ctreg14.org