

Good evening. Before we begin our program, I want to make a brief statement on behalf of the Board of Education in the interest of transparency.

For nearly a decade, the Board and Administration have studied various options to address the advanced age of the portable units at Countrywood, Birchwood, Maplewood, and Oakwood.

One option under consideration is whether an alternative configuration of our elementary grade bands would prove educationally and economically beneficial to the District.

It is important to note that this research is taking place in a worsening economic climate for school districts due to inflationary pressures and potential reductions in State aid.

The District will continue to evaluate options during the remainder of the school year and summer. It is anticipated that a community presentation will be made in the Fall of this year. At this time, the main proposal consists of utilizing five elementary buildings (Countrywood, Oakwood, Silas Wood, Maplewood, and Birchwood) for grades K-5 with the 6th grade center relocating to the Pidgeon Hill Road property (adjacent to the South Huntington Public Library) which will also house a new Pre-K center.

At the same time, I want to emphasize that no final decision has been made and community input will of course be welcomed. Further, any building configuration change would not take place until at least the 2026-2027 school year.

As always, any determination will be based on the short and long term economic and academic interests of the entire community, among other factors.