

# Coffee & Conversation

*with* Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Frank Santora**

held at Lincoln Roosevelt Elementary School • Thursday, August 15, 2024





# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process



## Why Now?

- District strives to continuously provide **innovative and meaningful learning opportunities for students**
- While there are a number of local daycare providers within Roxbury Township, there are limited opportunities for students to receive **preschool education through the district** .
- **At the present time**, the only preschool programs the district operates are through the Special Services Department or tuition based programs through the Community School or the Young Children's Program (part-time).
- There is an **interest and need within the community for high-quality, full-day preschool education** .
- The district's enrollment has been decreasing in recent years. This provides an opportunity for the district to alter the trajectory in an upward direction.



## Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

**Goal:** *To obtain funds to implement free preschool for Roxbury residents.*



- **Application Deadline was August 14, 2024 .**
- District will be notified in the “Fall” as to whether or not the funds will be awarded to the district.
- If granted the award, the district must implement the program within 75 days of the date of notification.
- As part of the application process, the district must identify available spaces within the district to host preschool programs. Such spaces must meet specific criteria.
- The district was required to explore potential partnerships with local area daycare providers. The providers must demonstrate an ability to implement the program as specified in the guidelines.



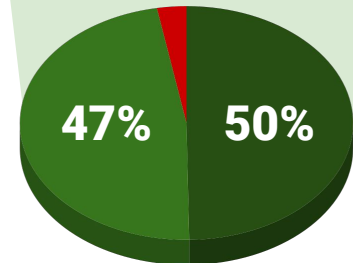
# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

**Results of our District's Interest Survey** administered July 26th thru Aug 9th



- **Of the 589 families who responded:**
  - **203 (34%)** do not have a need for a program like this as all of their children are older.
- **Out of the remaining 66% / 386 responses from families with young children:**
  - **11 (3%)** have a child who is or will be of preschool age, but do not want to take advantage of the program.
  - **183 (47%)** would like to take advantage of the program, but in a future year as their child is currently too young.
  - **192 (50%)** have a child who will have turned three years of age by January 6, 2025 and would begin attending the program on January 6, 2025.

Of the families with young children, **97%** are interested in a Preschool Program for Roxbury





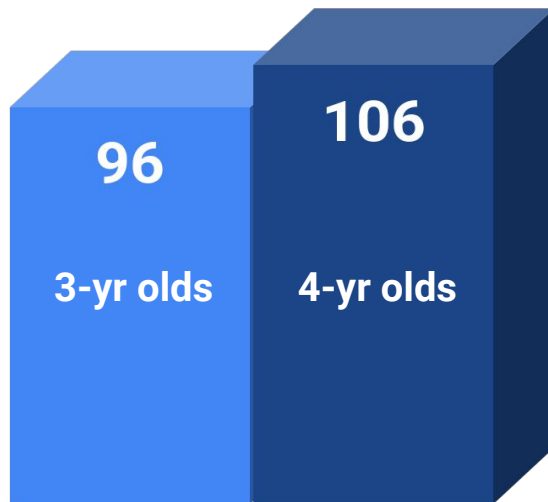
# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

**Results of our District's Interest Survey** administered July 26th thru Aug 9th

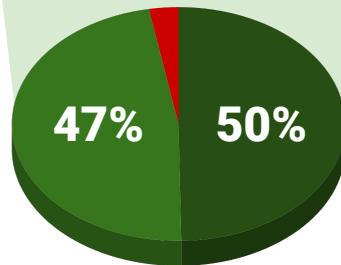


- Of the 192 families who have children who would begin attending the program on January 6, 2025:

**Possible Enrollment of 202 children**



Of the families with young children, **97%** are interested in a Preschool Program for Roxbury





# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

## *The Intended Plan...*



- **Creation of 7 in-district preschool classrooms**
  - 1 at Jefferson Elementary School
  - 1 at Kennedy Elementary School
  - 1 at Nixon Elementary School
  - 2 at RHS
  - 2 at the Meeker Street Building
  
- **Partnership with licensed daycare providers**
  - Learning Tree Academy in Succasunna -1 classroom
  - LightBridge Academy in Randolph -2 classrooms



**LEARNING  
TREE  
ACADEMY**





# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

## *Outreach to Local Area Daycare Providers*

- **10 local area daycare providers were contacted to gauge their interest**
  - 2 confirmed
  - 2 indicated interest for future years
  - 2 declined
  - 4 did not respond to the communications.
  
- The district intends to continue attempts to **communicate and collaborate with these providers** on a regular basis.





# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

## Staffing



- **Certified Preschool Teachers**
  - The district intends to hire 7 preschool teachers for the in-district preschool classrooms
  - The district will work with the local daycare providers to ensure appropriately certified and qualified preschool teachers are selected for the three preschool classrooms.
  - All preschool staff will receive ongoing training and professional development through the district administration.
- **Teacher Assistants**
  - Each preschool classrooms will have one teacher assistant
  - If required by a student's IEP, there may be an additional teacher assistant in the classroom
- **Full-time School Social Worker**
  - Support Family Engagement efforts
  - Serve as in a supportive role for intervention (PIRS)





# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

## Staffing



- **Full-time School Nurse** (for the Meeker Street building)
- **Community and Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS)/Instructional Coach (TPIC)**
  - The district will contract with William Paterson University to provide the instructional coaching and CPIS role.
  - The Instructional Coach will provide ongoing consultation, coaching and professional development to preschool staff.
- **Leadership Support**
  - PreK-4 Building Principals
  - PreK-6 Instructional Supervisors
  - Central Office Administrators
- **Operational Support**
  - Business Administrator
  - Transportation/Buildings/Grounds



# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

## *The Classroom Makeup*



- **The PEA states that the maximum class size is 15 students**
  - The district intends to designate three spaces in each classroom for inclusion opportunities for students with special education needs.
  - The district will purchase and equip all of the classrooms with the appropriate supplies/materials for a preschool classrooms.
  - All preschool classrooms will operate on a full-day schedule that is the same as the K-4 School Buildings
- **Curriculum**
  - The district will implement the Creative Curriculum in all of the preschool classrooms.
  - All instruction will be aligned with the Preschool Learning Standards.
  - The district will ensure that all staff are trained in the Creative Curriculum and that they have all of the necessary materials.



# Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

## Family & Community Engagement



- **A critical component of the Preschool Expansion is focused on Family and Community Engagement:**
  - The district intends to contract with William Paterson University for a **Community and Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS)**
  - The CPIS will coordinate the **Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)**
    - The ECAC will focus on reviewing the progress of the preschool program, assessing staff, student and family needs, developing programs to facilitate parent involvement and education, etc.
    - The district plans to solicit interest in serving on this committee via survey/future information sessions.
  - There will be strong emphasis on providing parents with training and education opportunities.
  - The School Social Worker will assist families through parent training and consultation services.
- **All preschool classrooms will operate on a full-day schedule that is the same as the K-4 School Buildings.**



## Preschool Expansion Aid Application Process

### *Transportation and Looking Forward...*

- **All students will be eligible for transportation** to and from school/location. Training will be provided to transportation staff on appropriate ways to support preschool students.
- **As we move forward...**
  - The district will be creating and distributing promotional materials regarding the preschool programs.
  - Information will be made available via a designated page on the district's website.
  - Throughout the Fall, the district will host a number of information sessions regarding the preschool programs.

