

After more than 15 years...

Elementary attendance zones to be changed by Sept. 2007

Focus groups will be held to gather information about changing the boundaries

What used to be empty fields and open spaces in Glenville are being filled with homes and families. The dozens of new homes built over the past few years have been mostly in the Glen-Worden and Glendaal attendance areas.

In fact, town of Glenville records show proposals for 779 new housing units – homes, apartments and condominiums – *all* within the Glen-Worden and Glendaal zones.

In addition, nearly 100 S-G students will attend school this fall at a school outside of their attendance zone. That may be because parents requested that their child switch schools to accommodate child care or there was not room at the students' home schools.

The current elementary attendance boundaries – last updated in the late 1980s when Glen-Worden reopened – are not providing an even number of students at the schools.

Scotia-Glenville uses maximum class size guidelines: 22 students for kindergarten and grade 1 classrooms, 23 to 24 students for grades 2 and 3 and 25 to 26 students for grades 4 and 5. These are used for regular classrooms.

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S-G's Class of 2006

A total of 224 graduates received diplomas at commencement. Here is a snapshot of the class:

83.5% receive Regents or Advanced Regents diplomas

187 students received a Regents or Advanced Regents diploma.

- ▶ 86 students graduated with a Regents diploma and one student received a Regents with honors;
- ▶ 64 students graduated with an Advanced Regents diploma and 36 students received an Advanced Regents diploma with honors;
- ▶ 26 students received a local diploma
- ▶ 11 students received an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) diploma

87.9% plan to attend college

197 students planned to further their education at college:

- ▶ 4-year colleges: 47.3% (106 students)
- ▶ 2-year colleges: 39.7% (89 students)
- ▶ 1 year or less: .9% (2 students)
- ▶ 86.8% or 171 of those students will attend colleges in New York
- ▶ 13.2% or 26 of those students will attend colleges outside New York

Other student plans

Some students planned to get jobs or join the services after graduation:

- ▶ 6.25% or 14 students planned to enter the workforce.
- ▶ 2.2% or 5 students will enter the military - one student each plans to enter the air force, air national guard and army national guard and two plan to enter the navy.
- ▶ 1.3% or 5 students will attend vocational/job training

Redistricting to occur by Sept. 2007, from page 1

As school begins in September and using today's student numbers:

▶ Three grades – kindergarten, 2 and 4 – are considered capped for enrollment at Glen-Worden.

▶ Three grades – kindergarten, 4 and 5 – are considered capped at Glendaal.

Children on the current waiting lists for those capped grades and new students this summer will be sent to either Lincoln or Sacandaga. For example, 13 students who wanted to enroll in kindergarten at their “home” school of Glen-Worden this year will attend Lincoln or Sacandaga.

Shifting students by redistricting areas is the only option

There are only a few ways to resolve these issues:

▶ Completely redistrict by changing the boundaries for all four schools.

▶ Partially redistrict the attendance boundaries by reassigning certain areas to new schools but leaving the rest of the attendance zone intact. For example, the Washington Road/Sunnyside/ Knickerbocker Road neighborhoods – now in the Glen-Worden zone – may be returned to the Lincoln zone. As well, the Pine Street/Virginia Boulevard/Vley Road neighborhoods – now in the Glendaal zone – could be shifted to Sacandaga. However, because of growth in other parts of those attendance zones, other areas would need to be added as well.

▶ Within those partially redistricted areas, swing zones could be added in which certain grades or new students would attend a different school but other students, such as those higher than grade 3, would stay at their current schools.

Recommendation by October

Superintendent Susan Swartz plans to make a recommendation on redistricting to the Board of Education in October. She will meet with the four elementary principals and supervisor of transportation to develop the recommendation. Revised attendance zones would be effective in September 2007.

Leaving the boundaries as they are now configured would lead to large classes sizes in many grades at Glen-Worden and Glendaal while there are smaller class sizes at Lincoln and Sacandaga.

“I know this is going to be a very difficult and uncomfortable situation for a lot of parents,” said Superintendent Susan Swartz. “However, without making changes, we will continue to struggle to have children attend schools with their neighborhood peers and to balance class sizes across the district.”

Parent focus groups

Swartz also added that there is no question that something needs to be done. The question is how to do it.

Parents interested in participating in focus groups to share ideas on the options mentioned above should send their names, addresses and telephone numbers and whether they can meet days or nights through an email to the webmaster at ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org or send a letter to Superintendent Susan Swartz, 900 Preddice Parkway, Scotia, NY 12302.

Those interested will be contacted late this summer.

Scotia-Glenville students find success outside of the classroom.



Gr. 7 student receives a \$500 GE grant to make "chemo caps" for cancer patients

Grade 7 student Nora Houlihan received a \$500 grant from the GE "Imagine the Impact" essay contest. She was honored at a banquet on May 18 at GE in Schenectady.

Her English teacher is Marianne Burke and her GE volunteer mentor is Phyllis Budka.

Nora wrote about establishing a program to make "chemo caps" for men and women undergoing chemotherapy. The Middle School Knitting Club has begun knitting the caps.

Her winning essay is below:

Cap Knitters United

When I wake up in the morning, I take it for granted that I'll have to brush and style my hair as I get my day started. Yet, for some people in our community who are undergoing chemotherapy treatments for cancer, they don't have any hair to style. While baldness is in for some men, others prefer to have hair or something to cover their head.



This fall at my middle school I started a knitting club. We socialize as well as knit. Students and teachers join together to learn new techniques and to work on a variety of projects. Sometimes it's backwards, and students are teaching teachers!

Our club is looking for a community service project to work on. This is where chemo caps come in! There is a need in our community for these hats. I know a neighbor who has cancer,

and she is now going through chemotherapy. At times she wears a wig, but it is uncomfortable and itchy. My grandmother suggested that I knit a hat for her. Wearing a chemo cap can make people more comfortable about going out of their houses.

Chemotherapy makes a person's scalp very sensitive to wool and fabric softeners. Cotton yarn is the best to use for the chemo caps because it is cooler in the summer. Also, kids who have cancer could use these knitted hats. Choosing assorted colors and patterns can help individualize hats for different age groups and personalities.

I would use the five hundred dollars to buy yarn and knitting needles for my knitting group to knit the hats with. Also, I plan to contact local yarn shops, purchase yarn from them, and leave it in their shops in a basket with instructions on how to make a chemo hat. This will provide a way for other local knitters to contribute their talents to this important cause. Later, I would go around and pick up the knitted hats.

Not only do people lose physical strength when they go through chemotherapy, but they lose strength mentally as well. These hats will let people know that there are people out there who really care. Beginning knitters and expert knitters alike can make chemo caps, and know they are helping a person feel better and more secure about themselves. ♡

Artwork from 14 students displayed at Legislature

Artwork by Meghan Adams will be displayed at superintendents' conference in September

The following students' artwork was displayed at the Legislative Office Building in Albany in June:

High School: **Meghan Adams** and **Allie Kirkham**;

Middle School: **Avery Francois, Cooper Wright, Casey Norton** and **Haley Evanoski**;

Glen-Worden: **Cameron Dylong, Alexis Webb, Brendon Sarnowski** and **Nicole Rizzuto**;

Sacandaga: **Cecelia Hyland** and **Morgan Warmer**; and

Lincoln: **Thomas Andrews** and **Jacob Tracy**.

This exhibit is organized annually by the New York State Art Teachers Association to showcase the artistic achievements of students at the elementary through high school levels.

Meghan Adams' artwork from the Legislative Art Exhibit will also be displayed in September at the annual statewide conference of the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) in Saratoga Springs.

Her artwork was among 25 statewide selected to be exhibited at the NYSCOSS conference.

Her Studio in Art teacher is Susan Campbell. ♡

National Circus Project brings program to students at Sacandaga and Lincoln



Athletic Director John Geniti wants to boost involvement

Assistant High School Principal John Geniti has moved down the hallway to become district director of physical education and athletics.

He succeeds Thomas Bried, who retired in January after 20 years. Geniti's salary is \$85,000 per year.



John Geniti

"I'd like to have more students *actively* participate in their physical education classes," he said. "We need students to have a better understanding of the importance of physical education and how it affects their health."

Geniti, 33, joined the senior high staff as a physical education teacher and coach in September 1996. From December 1999 to June 2005, he was high school dean of students and became assistant principal in 2005.

He has coached boys' modified soccer, varsity bowling and varsity outdoor track and football at S-G.

Geniti wants to boost the number of students who play sports at the modified (middle school) level. The modified program becomes a feeder program for the junior varsity and varsity programs at the high school.

"That (modified level) is the time that we should have a lot of interest in athletics," he said. "Students should be willing to get out and try new things."

Geniti would also like to see more students participate in a sport each season to become well-rounded athletes. Many students opt to go out for one sport but then sit out the other two seasons.

"On an ideal team, a student will build character, strengthen their work ethic, learn to work with others, build teams and get connected to school and the school community," he said. "That connection keeps them focused on academics."

Geniti received a bachelor's degree in physical education from SUNY at Cortland and a master's in educational administration and policy from SUNY at Albany. He and his wife, Elaine, have four children, ages 6, 3, 2 and 9 months. 🍌

Town, S-G property values have risen 58% since 1996

With all the addition and subtraction completed and Glenville's reassessment project at an end, property values in the town have risen by 58.4 percent since 1996.

Total property values in Scotia and Glenville increased by \$846 million, from \$1.448 billion to \$2.294 billion. In the Scotia-Glenville School District, the value of all property increased by 58.6 percent, from \$890 million to \$1.412 billion.

The Board of Assessment Review made its final determinations by June 30 on the 726 grievances that were filed by community propertyowners. The board granted \$15.629 million in assessment reductions. The final assessment roll was filed on July 1.

In August, the Board of Education, using the above figures, will determine a tax rate for the 2006-07 school year. That rate will be used on the September tax bills.

Typical process

Town Assessor Rosalie Fahey said the process went about as well as previous reassessments.

"There are always some issues every time we do this," said Fahey. "But for a project of this size, you're going to get that."

She said the general rule of thumb for reassessments held true this time: one third of tax bills would rise based on the new assessment, one third of tax bills would decline and one third of tax bills would stay the same (*within \$100 of last year's bill*).

Next steps

Homeowners who still feel their assessment is unfair may take the next step: into the court system.

For a \$30 processing fee, homeowners may file a small claims lawsuit against the town with the Schenectady County Clerk's office. A hearing officer would be appointed to review the homeowner's assessment. Fahey's office also defends the assessment before the county hearing officer.

About 25 businesses of all different sizes – including Walmart – have also filed petitions through Schenectady County Court to challenge their assessments. ☺

Scotia-Glenville's 2006-07 school calendar

Here is an overview calendar for the 2006-07 school year. A more detailed calendar will be mailed to the community in late August.

- September 4 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL**
- September 5-6 Superintendent's Conf. Days - NO SCHOOL for students**
- September 7 First Day of School**
- October 9 Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL**
- October 10 Superintendent's Conf. Day - NO SCHOOL for students**
- November 2 K-5 Parent/Teacher Confer. - HALF DAY**
- November 7 K-5 Parent/Teacher Confer. - HALF DAY**
- November 10 Veterans' Day - NO SCHOOL**
- November 14 K-5 Parent/Teacher Confer. - HALF DAY**
- November 20 K-5 Parent/Teacher Confer. - HALF DAY**
- November 23-24 . . . Thanksgiving Day Recess - NO SCHOOL**
- December 25-Jan. 1 Christmas Recess - NO SCHOOL**
- January 2, 2007 Classes resume**
- January 15 Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL**
- January 23-26 Regents exams**
- January 26 Regents Rating Day - HALF DAY for students, grades 6-12**
- January 31 K-5 Report Card Preparation - HALF DAY for students**
- February 19-23 President's Day & Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL**
- Friday, March 23 . . Superintendent's Conf. Day - NO SCHOOL for students**
- Thursday, April 5 . . K-5 Report Card Preparation - HALF DAY for students**
- Friday, April 6 Good Friday - No School**
- April 9-13 Spring Recess - No School**
- May 18 Staff Development Day - HALF DAY for gr. 6-12 students**
- May 28 Memorial Day - No School**
- June 13 K-5 Report Card Preparation - HALF DAY for students**
- June 13-22 Regents exams**
- June 18-21 Middle School exams - HALF DAY for students, grades 6-8**
- June 21 Last Day of School for Students**
- June 22 Last Day of School for Teachers**
- June 23, 2007 Graduation, Proctor's Theater**



S-G Recognitions



A small sampling of the many wonderful things happening among the students and staff in your school district.

These students were named to the fourth quarter Students of the Quarter at the high school for 2005-06:

Subject	Name	Class Year
GOAL (Alternative Ed.)	Chris Sherling	2009
Art	Meredith Comley	2008
Business Education	Lucas Muller	2008
English	Jordan Traficante	2009
Family/Consumer Sciences	Chelsea Smith	2009
Foreign languages	Anne Marsh	2007
Health	Jillian King	2008
Mathematics	James Brown	2009
Music	Alex Atchley	2007
Physical Education	Kevin Frame	2008
Science	Jillian King	2008
Social Studies	Jillian King	2008
Technology	Austin Lambert	2010
Vocational Technology	Chester Jarosz	2007



Lincoln grade 5 student Amanda Pellegrin placed first in the Fourth Annual Be Kind to Animals Week Poster and Essay Contest through the Animal Protective Association on Maple Avenue.

Student **Alex Comins** placed third and **Charles Tenny** received honorable mention in the poster contest. All of the students were in **Elaine Wertalik's** class at Lincoln.



Five former athletes at Scotia-Glenville High School and the former athletic director were honored on June 4 at the 17th annual Athletic Hall of Fame induction.

This year's inductees were: **Brian Sole** - Class of 2001 - football, basketball and baseball; **Daniel Collins** - Class of 2001 - football and baseball; **Fred Frese III** - Class of 2000 - football, track and lacrosse; **Rachel Oaks** - Class of 2001 - track; and **Jennifer Rajczak** - Class of 2000 - soccer and lacrosse

Special Recognition was given to **Thomas Bried**, director of physical education and athletics, 1986-2005



The Middle School GIVE serving learning program held a Taping Tedford fundraiser in which \$300 was raised by students for the American Cancer Society.

Students paid 50 cents per foot to purchase duct tape to wrap Assistant Principal **Herb Tedford** to a post in the cafeteria. Grade 8 student **Victoria Hall** was the GIVE student leader who organized the event.

In case you didn't hear...

▶ **Scotia-Glenville was named as a "high performing/gap closing school district" by the state Education Department** for meeting all state standards in ELA and mathematics in 2004-05 and making adequate progress in test scores during 2003-04. Locally, the Niskayuna, Schalmont and Cohoes school districts received the same recognition; 79 districts statewide received this designation.

▶ **The Capital District Business Review ranked Scotia-Glenville as the 11th top district out of 85 local school districts.** Last year, S-G ranked 13th in the annual *Business Review* ranking. S-G also ranked 11th in a separate ranking of mathematics scores at grades 4, 8 and Regents.

Sacandaga Elementary School will be featured on this *Cheerios* box this September and October in Price Chopper stores. **Sacandaga students and staff, through the PTA, raised \$3,762 by**



collecting box tops from General Mills cereal boxes during this past school year. About 100,000 boxes will be printed.

Community approves 2006-07 budget

Yagielski and Normington elected

The \$42.01 million school budget for the 2006-07 school year was approved by the community May 16 by a vote of 1,539 to 1,168 (57% to 43%). The \$274,847 bus purchase plan was approved by a vote of 1,608 to 1,042 (61% to 39%).

The results for election to two seats on the Board of Education were: **John Yagielski**: 1,594, **Gary Normington**: 1,543 and Jerry Moore: 1,376. Incumbents Karen Bradley and John Carpenter did not seek re-election.

Bradley and Carpenter leave school board after 12 years

New BOE members Gary Normington and John Yagielski seated at July 10 meeting

Karen Bradley and John Carpenter – who together served six of the last 12 years as board presidents – didn't seek fifth terms on the Board of Education.

Both pointed to the 1999 building project construction – the largest in district history – as an example of how S-G students have become better prepared for the 21st century.

Bradley, a district resident for 24 years, was president of the board from 1996-99. She also served as board vice president during the 2004-05 school year.

She is a reference librarian at the Schenectady County Public Library.

Carpenter was vice president for two years from 1996 to 1998 and served three years as president of the Board of Education from 1999 to 2002.

A captain in the Scotia Fire Department, Carpenter has been a district resident for 34 years.

Normington and Yagielski seated on BOE

Gary Normington and John Yagielski officially took their seats at the July 10 organizational meeting. They were elected to three-year terms on May 16 (see page 7 for results).

Normington is a software trainer for Community Computes of Auburn, a medical software company. Yagielski is an electrical engineer for General Electric and is currently a technical leader in the Generator Engineering Dept.

Scotia-Glenville's Calendar of Events

- ▶ **Monday, Aug. 14 7:15 p.m.**
Board of Education meeting
Set 2006-07 tax rates
- ▶ **Monday, Aug. 28**
Board of Education meeting
Discuss 2006-07 goals
- ▶ **Monday, Sept. 4**
NO SCHOOL -
Labor Day holiday
- ▶ **Tues.-Wed., Sept. 5-6**
Superintendent's Conference Days, **NO SCHOOL** for students
- ▶ **Thursday, Sept. 7**
FIRST DAY of school
- ▶ **Monday, Sept. 11**
Board of Education meeting
Middle School
Opening of school update.
- ▶ **Meet the Teacher Nights:**
 - **LINCOLN:** Thursday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m.
 - **GLENDAAL:** Thursday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m.
 - **SACANDAGA:** Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m., gr. 3-5
 - **GLEN-WORDEN:** Thursday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m., K-2; 7:30 p.m., gr. 3-5
 - **SACANDAGA:** Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m., K-2
 - **HIGH SCHOOL:** Thursday, Sept. 28, 6:40 p.m.
 - **MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Thursday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.
- ▶ **Monday, Sept. 25**
Board of Education meeting
Middle School
- ▶ **Monday, Oct. 16**
Board of Education meeting
Glendaal Elementary School,
Sacandaga and Bolt roads

All Board of Education meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held at the District Office unless otherwise noted. The District Office is located at the end of Lark Street in the village of Scotia. Please call 382-1215 if you have any questions about time or locations.

Smith, Carbone elected

Margaret Smith was elected to a third annual term as president of the Board of Education at the July 10 organizational meeting.

Pamela Carbone was elected to a one-year term as vice president. She also served as vice president during the 1998-99 school year. 🍷

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret Smith, *President*
Pamela S. Carbone, *Vice President*

Kurt W. Ahnert
Benjamin A. Conlon
Joseph P. Crisafulli
Gary T. Normington
John R. Yagielski



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Scotia-Glenville

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ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org

District Administrators

Susan M. Swartz
Superintendent

Joseph F. Kavanaugh
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Dorothy B. Nolie
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