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District balances school construction

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SOUTHWICK—Contractors from PDS Engineering, the firm working on the Woodland Elementary School and Powder Mill Middle School projects, are performing the final touches to allow classrooms to be in use for the upcoming school

year. Meanwhile, work at the high school began and an alternate entrance has been established for the school building.

Superintendent Dr. John Barry said he is pleased with the progress made by contractors during the summer months. Despite some complications, the majority of work is on schedule and barring any

major setbacks, teachers and administrators will begin the year without any issues.

“Things have been going well,” said Barry. “The contractors have been very busy for the past two months.”

Barry will be utilizing the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District’s website to update parents on

activity at all the schools, and will put up needed information to help parents and students adjust to campus changes while the school renovation/repair/addition project is ongoing.

The biggest adjustments are being made at the high school, where construction work will



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
The welcome sign for Southwick-Tolland Regional High School advertises the new entrance to the high school.

be ongoing throughout the school year because of additions being made to the front and back of the existing building.

Because of the project scope, the circular driveway to the school is being moved, and there will be a different driveway to the parking lot created about two weeks into the school year. The existing driveway will be utilized until then.

“When the changes are made to the driveway, we will put a diagram of that up on the district’s website,” said Barry.

The parking will also be changed at the high school and the main entrance to the building will be on the east side of the building, which has typically known as the “side entrance.” That entrance has been outfitted with proper security, which includes surveillance cameras and a reception desk. The main offices are still located on the northwest end of the building.

“It’s going to be an adjustment for a while,” said Barry. “We are just asking our students to stay away from the construction areas while work is ongoing.”

Woodland is going to have renovations and repairs occurring during the school year. The Woodland plan is to block off a wing of the school at a time. The first wing that was renovated and repaired was the newest wing created in the 1990s. Barry said work was being completed in that wing and movers would be bringing classroom and administration furniture back into the building this week. Barry did not say what wing of the building would be renovated next, but said one wing will be worked on during the first half of the school year, then students will be shifted halfway through the year so a second wing can be worked on.

Work at Powder Mill Middle School this summer has centered on the roof, cafeteria, library and northern corridor of the building. Works crews are supposed to be finishing up work for the start of school and then work will cease for the school year and restart next summer.



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
There is a new main entrance to the high school located on the side of the building nearest the student parking lot.