



# SEWANHAKA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Floral Park, NY

## *Pairing bond-funded capital projects with energy-savings-funded building improvements helps school leaders leverage savings to reduce capital needs.*

After voters approved an \$86.6 million bond referendum in 2014 to fund much-needed renovations within the Sewanhaka Central High School District (SCHSD), Dr. Ralph Ferrie, SCHSD superintendent said, “The hard work still lies ahead.”<sup>1</sup> Even at this level of funding, there was not enough money in the project budget to cover all the needed work.

School leaders understood that important items not covered by the bond funding would be at risk of exclusion or at risk of competing with student programs made possible through the general fund. Neither would be a good outcome.

School leaders found a way to accomplish much of the needed additional work through an energy savings performance contract (ESPC) that was concurrently taking shape to improve and modernize the district’s five high schools, Elmont Memorial High School, Floral Park Memorial High School, New Hyde Park High School, H Frank Carey High School, and Sewanhaka High School.

By working closely with the SCHSD and the general contractor (GC) hired to manage the bond-funded renovation project, NORESKO identified \$7.2 million in energy savings measures that could be funded from guaranteed energy savings and installed by NORESKO within an ESPC. By leveraging guaranteed energy savings, SCHSD saved this same amount from the otherwise constrained budget for the capital-funded renovation project.

To execute the scopes of work concurrently, NORESKO worked in close coordination with the GC and the SCHSD team for work scheduling and overall construction administration.

The addition of solar photovoltaic systems for generation of electricity at the five high schools was among the most visible measures of the ESPC.

Because SCHSD leaders brought the bond-funded renovation together with ESPC-funded improvements, they were able to achieve even more for the taxpayers, students, teachers, and staff—and to do so more efficiently.

**Project Cost:** \$18.2 Million

**Annual Cost Savings:** \$942,838

**Contract Term:** 18 Years

**Contract Type:** ESPC

### **Technical Highlights:**

- Lighting upgrades & controls
- HVAC improvements
- New building management system
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems
- Building envelope improvements
- Improved controls for walk-in freezers
- Improved power management of computers

### **Environmental Impact:**

- Reduce annual electricity usage from grid by 3.2 million kWh
- Generate annual electricity of 1.2 million kWh through on-site solar PV systems
- Reduce annual electricity demand level of 10,035 kW

**“The goal of all of these measures was to be environmentally conscious and to save money.”<sup>2</sup>**

Ralph Ferrie, Superintendent  
Sewanhaka High School District

<sup>1</sup><http://newhydeparkillustrated.com/2014/05/28/voters-approve-sewanhaka-bond/>  
<sup>2</sup>[https://theislandnow.com/new\\_hyde\\_park-108/solar-panels-save-sewanhaka-250k-year/](https://theislandnow.com/new_hyde_park-108/solar-panels-save-sewanhaka-250k-year/)

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