

April  
2023

ECASB

Erie County Association of School Boards

Where professional development,  
leadership & advocacy meet.



*Local School Districts that Appel Osborne Landscape Architects have recently worked with include:*  
**Alden CSD**  
**Depew UFSD**  
**Grand Island CSD**  
**Lockport City SD**  
**Niagara**  
**Wheatfield CSD**  
**Sweet Home CSD**  
**West Seneca CSD**  
**&**  
**Williamsville CSD**



**Timothy Bonaparte**  
RLA, CPESC, LEED AP  
Partner

## *ECASB Asks the Experts...*

***ECASB "Ask the Experts" is a monthly paper that brings ECASB and an expert in the field of education together to provide ECASB Board Members information about a variety of topics of interest to Board Members.***

### **What is Landscape Architecture, and What Role Does It Play in Your Capital Project?**

**By Timothy Bonaparte, Partner Appel Osborne Landscape Architecture**

Many people are familiar with the field of architecture and have a general idea of what it entails. To that end, many school board members are aware that they have a District Architect and understand the request for proposals process to acquire these professional services.

Landscape architecture firms are almost always a subconsultant to architecture firms for K-12 projects, and the field is less well-known. Architects design buildings, and Landscape Architects design the surrounding site to provide both technically sound and aesthetically pleasing outdoor spaces that complement building design through functional, sustainable, and creative site features. Ultimately, landscape architecture is defined as planning, design, management, and nurturing of the built and natural environments. At Appel Osborne, the foundation of our design is built upon the objective to seamlessly blend the technical detail of site engineering with the creative art of landscape architecture.

Landscape architectural design includes pedestrian and vehicular circulation; parking; athletic fields; outdoor plazas and courtyards; playscapes; building entries; planting plans and landscaping; infrastructure improvements; and storm water management. Essentially, anything that needs to be designed outside the walls of a building falls within the landscape architectural scope. As with building design, many components of site design also require coordination with other disciplines including architecture and engineering.

Like most members of the design team, Landscape Architects are a part of your capital project from pre-referendum design through construction closeout. While a majority of communication is with the architect, our Partners and Project Managers will attend design meetings and be available for all questions regarding the site design. During pre-referendum and schematic design, our team may also be invited to public forums to communicate the design and walk through presentation graphics.

A large part of capital projects is the New York State-mandated State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process. This is a protocol to determine a pro-

ject's potential impact on the natural environment. This can be a lengthy process that should be started a minimum of 90 days before a public referendum. At Appel Osborne, our team prepares the documentation on behalf of the district and coordinates all necessary reviews and mitigation measures to ensure the project can advance smoothly.

After a project passes public referendum, design is advanced through design development and contract documents. A large part of this from a site standpoint is grading and drainage, which ensures that storm water will be effectively managed after construction is complete. The drawings that landscape architects compile for the site design are sent to the architect and compiled with all disciplines for a holistic set of construction documents.

When design is complete, the drawings are sent to the NYS Education Department for review and approval. Any comments from this review must be addressed before the project goes to bid. During bidding, the Landscape Architect addresses any questions and requests for clarification from contractors about the site design.

Once construction begins, the Landscape Architect has a direct line of communication with the Construction Manager but ensures the District Architect is apprised of all communications and field decisions. At Appel Osborne, our team provides regular site visits to ensure adherence to the drawings, and in some cases, visits the site weekly to enforce compliance with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation guidelines regarding storm water discharge during construction.

Overall, landscape architecture is a large part of many capital projects. It is our pleasure to share the background and importance of our field and the various ways it can impact and improve your school campuses, and we appreciate your dedication as school board members in always striving for the best for your districts.

Please feel free to direct any further questions to me at [tbonaparte@appelosborne.com](mailto:tbonaparte@appelosborne.com)

*Tim presented to the ECASB membership last fall at the Speed Boarding Event. Attendees to the event were pleased to learn from Tim and his co-workers about the scope of the work the company handles. Mr. Bonaparte is a graduate of the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture and attended the State University of New York at Cortland, Cortland, New York. He has Accredited Continuing Education Courses in Storm Water Management and "Green" Design. Tim is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, and is a LEED Accredited Professional. He joined Appel Osborne in 1998 to learn directly from Bruce Appel how to be a 'Professional Landscape Architect'. His goals are to be a great Dad and be successful in all aspects of life. In addition to practicing Landscape Architecture, Tim enjoys coaching his children in multiple and never-ending sports, hiking, fly fishing, hunting and golf.*

### Appel Osborne Landscape Architecture

102 W. Division Street, Suite 100 - Syracuse, New York 13204

50 Elk Street, Suite 400 - Buffalo, New York 14210

T: 315.476.1002 F: 315.479.7573