

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Board of Education will hold public hearings at the start of their business meetings:

- Tuesday, January 24, 8:30 p.m., North High School, 35 Polo Rd.
- Monday, February 6, 8 p.m., Cumberland Adult Center, 30 Cumberland Ave.

For more information, call (516) 441-4020.



Saddle Rock School's auditorium will be improved and water-penetration problems addressed as part of the Capital Projects.

Proposed Capital Projects Proposition Vote Tuesday, Feb. 14 • 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.

- Baker Elementary School
(for residents living north of the LIRR)
- South High School
(for residents living south of the LIRR)

APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified registered voters can obtain Applications for Absentee Ballots at www.greatneck.k12.ny.us (click on Budget, then choose Absentee Ballot) or from the District Clerk, Phipps Admin. Bldg., 345 Lakeville Rd., school days, 9 AM – 4 PM (516-441-4020). Residents whose registration records are marked "permanently disabled" automatically receive absentee ballots. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 PM, Tuesday, Feb. 14.

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Board of Education: Barbara Berkowitz, president; Fran Langsner, vice president; Donald L. Ashkenase, Lawrence R. Gross, Susan Healy • Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Thomas P. Dolan • Assistant Superintendent for Business: John T. Powell

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Great Neck Public Schools

2012 Proposed Capital Projects Proposition

On Tuesday, February 14, 2012, qualified residents of the Great Neck Public School District will be asked to authorize a proposed \$17,184,085 Capital Projects Proposition to renovate, repair, and improve our aging buildings and grounds. **This Proposition will have no negative impact on taxpayers.**

The total cost of these renovations and/or improvements will be totally funded from the Unassigned Fund Balance. To address many building issues districtwide, the Board of Education has determined that this is the appropriate time to use the Unassigned Fund Balance to finance these needed projects.

The Board of Education and administration are committed to providing students with a quality education and the continued maintenance of the district's physical plant, while being fiscally prudent.



Lakeville School's roof will be replaced and the parking lot refurbished as part of the Capital Projects.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The following is a list of projects that, if approved, will address many of the district's high priority issues. A facility's survey by architects and engineers, along with recommendations from district staff and the public, identified these projects:

- **District Improvements:** wire buildings for time-clock connectivity; technology equipment upgrades, improvements, and purchases
- **Generator Expansion and Enhancement:** North High/Middle Schools, Baker School, Kennedy School, Lakeville School, Saddle Rock School, Parkville School, Parkville Annex, Cumberland Adult Center, Clover Drive Adult Learning Center, Grace Avenue School, and Security Building
- **Auditorium Improvements:** lighting and acoustical at North High School, South High School, and Saddle Rock School
- **Athletic Improvements:** renovate the athletic fields and running track at North High/Middle Schools and South High School, and the basketball courts and tennis courts at South Middle School
- **Lakeville School:** refurbish parking lot; replace roof and boiler/climate control/steam traps
- **North Middle School:** masonry/pointing/incinerator removal; renovate bathrooms; repair stairwells
- **Parkville Annex:** renovate space
- **Saddle Rock School:** repair wall on the west side to stop water penetration
- **South High/Middle Schools Campus:** reconstruct the Lakeville Road walkway along the west side
- **Cumberland Adult Center:** replace boiler/climate control/steam trap and roof

THE IMPACT OF NOT APPROVING THESE CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Potential interruption of the education program in the event that buildings and/or athletic fields would have to be closed or classes or events rescheduled due to health and safety issues.
- Increased costs as a result of purchases and repairs being made on an emergency basis without the benefit of planning and the time to obtain the lowest prices and fees through the public bidding of public-work contracts.
- Continued inability to host certain athletic events, since athletic facilities in the Great Neck School District are not adequate for some interscholastic sports competitions.
- Delay of Capital Projects start and completion dates if State Education Department approval is not obtained for projects to be done during the summer of 2012 when buildings are less populated and disruptions to programs are minimal.

FUNDING THE CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Unassigned Fund Balance will be used to finance these Capital Improvements. Doing so will not result in an increase to the real-property tax levy and will enable the district to address these Capital needs now.

The Unassigned Fund Balance is that part of the Fund Balance that has accumulated from: prior years' revenues being greater than expenditures (net of transfers to reserves) and appropriations of Fund Balance to reduce real property taxes in financing each year's budget. Conservative budgeting practices, careful spending, and favorable economic circumstances have resulted in the Unassigned Fund Balance.

SOME QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q. Will district taxpayers see an increase in their taxes as a result of these Capital Improvement Projects?**
- A. No.
- Q. What is the condition of our infrastructure and why should these projects be done now?**
- A. The district's infrastructure is aging. Two buildings were constructed in the 1920s, one in the 1940s, seven in the 1950s, and one in the 1960s. Age, depreciation, and obsolescence require that we act now to address issues that require immediate attention.
- Q. Will these projects qualify for State Building Aid?**
- A. Yes, in the amount of 10 percent of approved construction costs, which will be used as a revenue source in future years.
- Q. Why use the Unassigned Fund Balance for these Projects?**
- A. A conservative fiscal practice for the use of an Unassigned Fund Balance is to finance Capital Projects that can no longer be deferred, rather than for recurring operating expenditures.
- Q. What would it cost to borrow the funds instead of using the Unassigned Fund Balance to finance these Capital Improvements?**
- A. A 20-year serial bond for about \$17 million at today's interest rates would result in approximately \$23,542,588 in principal and interest costs over the life of the bond.
- Q. Why were these Capital Projects chosen and not others?**
- A. The Projects chosen are those requiring immediate attention and can, therefore, be financed with the Unassigned Fund Balance.