

New Paltz Central School District Capital Project Q&A

Q: What is a Capital Project?

A: Just like a home, school facilities need regular attention and upkeep to continue to operate year to year. Some issues require immediate attention, while other improvements and repairs can be spread out over time. This is done in much the same way a homeowner obtains a loan to fund major repairs, such as a roof or to HVAC units. For school districts, it is referred to as a Capital Project. With Capital Projects school districts can access state aid to help offset the local tax impact. The District is also able to borrow money allowing the cost to be repaid over time.

Q: Why Now?

A: By NYS Law, the District must conduct a Building Condition Survey every five years, that identifies important areas that require attention in terms of health, safety and infrastructure. Based on our completed Building Condition Survey in 2022 key areas have been identified that need attention. If the issues are not corrected in the near future, the costs to the taxpayer is expected to increase.

Q: Why can't the items included in the Capital Project be completed using the annual budget funds?

A: The majority of the items in this project are NOT normal maintenance and are at the end of their useful life. Normal maintenance items are not aidable. If the District completed project items under normal maintenance, the District would lose allocated state aid and the entire cost would rest with the taxpayers.

Q: What are the propositions being voted on Thursday January 16?

A: There are three propositions, which offer improvements at every school facility:

Proposition 1 is \$17.1 million, of which 97.0% is eligible for State Building Aid. The cost to the taxpayers for this proposition will be \$9.2 million including interest. Proposition 1 includes the following:

District Wide

- LED lighting upgrades

At the High School

- Replacement of the home bleachers and press box
- Renovations of the boys and girls locker rooms
- Window and door upgrades
- Repairs to the science room gas bibs
- Corridor ceiling tile replacement
- Boiler room upgrades

At the Middle School

- Exterior staircase repairs-3 sets
- Single stall bathroom upgrades
- Grease trap replacement
- Science room gas bib replacements

At Lenape Elementary School

- Roof replacement
- Water storage tank replacements
- Window and door upgrades
- Asphalt repair and replacement
- Grease trap replacement

At Duzine Elementary School

- Grease trap replacement

At Buildings and Grounds/Transportation Facility

- Remove and replace rubber roof

Proposition 2 is \$12.1 million and it cannot pass unless Proposition 1 passes. Propositions 1 and 2 total \$29.2 million of which 83.7% is eligible for State Building Aid. Together, Propositions 1 and 2 will cost the taxpayers \$18.9 million including interest. There is a reduced building aid rate because Proposition 2 includes site work and not all of the site work is eligible for building aid.

Proposition 2 includes the following:

At the High School

- Improved drainage and irrigation for the baseball and competition fields
- Improved drainage and irrigation for the softball field
- Turf for the Floyd Patterson Field
- New 8 lane track
- New scoreboard for the Floyd Patterson Field
- New goal posts for the Floyd Patterson Field
- New concession, bathroom and storage building by the Floyd Patterson Field
- New field lighting for the Floyd Patterson Field
- Added security lighting near the Floyd Patterson Field
- Six new tennis courts
- Air conditioning in the auditorium

At the Middle School

- Resurface three tennis/pickleball courts and basketball court
- Demolish three tennis courts and add a grassy playground area
- Air conditioning in the auditorium

Proposition 3 is \$19.2 million and it cannot pass unless Proposition 1 passes. Propositions 1 and 3 total \$36.3 million of which 50.75% is eligible for State Building Aid. Together, Propositions 1 and 3 will cost the taxpayers \$39.8 million including interest. There is a reduced building aid rate because Proposition 3 includes an aquatics center.

Proposition 3 includes the following:

At the High School

- Aquatics Center

If Proposition 1, 2 and 3 pass the total is 48.4 million of which 54.3% is eligible for State Building Aid. Together, Propositions 1, 2 and 3 will cost the taxpayers \$51.7 million including interest.

Q: What are the advantages of a turf field?

A: Turf fields have several advantages over grass fields. Turf fields can get more use than grass and can allow one to two additional months of play per year. Natural grass fields are limited in the number of times they can be played on before the field is degraded and requires costly rehabilitation, where turf play is only limited to what scheduling can allow. In wetter seasons, or in rainy or wet conditions, turf fields can still be used, and remain dry due to the drainage systems. Currently only football plays games on the Floyd Patterson Field. With a turf field football, soccer and lacrosse would be able to play on the field under the lights.

Q: If the project is approved by voters, when will the work start?

A: After voter approval, the plans and specifications will need to be completed by the architects and engineers. The plans are then submitted to New York State for approval. The approval from the state has been taking between 30-32 weeks. The start of construction work is dependent on SED approval, but is expected to begin during the summer of 2026 and be completed by the fall of 2027 with the exception of the aquatic center which is scheduled to be completed in early 2028.

Q: When and where will the vote be held?

A: The vote will be held on Thursday, January 16th from 7am to 9pm in the New Paltz High School Gym.

Q: Who Can Vote?

A: To be eligible to vote on the capital project, you must be a citizen of the United States, age 18 or older, and a resident of the New Paltz Central School District for the past 30 days or more. Voters registered with the Ulster County Board of Election are automatically registered to vote.

Q: What if I am unable to make it to the polls on the day of the vote?

A: You can vote by absentee ballot or an early mail ballot.

- To obtain either the absentee ballot or the early mail ballot you must fill out an application. Applications can be printed from the District's website, picked up at the District Office which is located at 1 Eugene L. Brown Drive, New Paltz, during regular business hours(8:00am to 4pm) or by emailing the District Clerk at sermo@newpaltz.k12.ny.us

- When the District Clerk receives the completed application, a ballot will be issued. Absentee Ballots and may only be given to the voter. If the voter is requesting the ballot be sent by mail, the District Clerk must receive the application by January 9th. If the voter is personally picking up their ballot, the application must be received by January 15th.
- All ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5pm January 16th.