

Proposed Phase II Capital Project

Approved by the Board of Education

A special newsletter edition outlining the scope of work for the proposed project and its financial plan will be mailed to district residents by Friday, March 5, 2010.

A 20/20 Vision for 21st Century Learners and Learning Environments

At a special Board of Education meeting held on February 1st, the board adopted a resolution to place the second phase of its capital project plan before the voters. The vote will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2010. In this project, the Board of Education set priorities that will improve our students' learning environments, a key step toward realizing the district's 20/20 vision for 21st Century learning.

Proposed Phase II Capital Project

Phase II will build upon work completed in Phase I that addressed basic building (infrastructure) needs of all four of our school buildings. Phase II will also focus on program, space and land/site improvements. Funding support for the Phase II \$29,800,000 capital project will include state building aid, the school district's capital reserve fund, a debt service fund and a local share; it also coincides with the retirement of a school district debt. The estimated local tax impact is 2%. This means that for a home assessed at \$100,000, the average cost to the homeowner would be \$51 per year or \$.51 per thousand of assessed value.

The Board Believes the Multi-Phase Approach is the Most Responsible and Financially Prudent Method of Improving Our School Buildings

In November of 2005, the Board of Education formed a Facilities Planning Committee and invited community members, faculty and staff members to join them in conducting a comprehensive study of our school buildings and developing a long-range plan to meet the educational needs of our school district. This committee of thirty, assisted by the school district's architects and construction manager, concluded that a multi-phase approach to facilities planning would be the most effective way to manage the costs associated with improving buildings and grounds within a reasonable time frame. The committee also recognized that under this plan, the school district would maximize state aid and control local costs.

As a result, in February 2007, district voters approved a Phase I Capital Improvement Project that included basic building (infrastructure) improvements at all four school buildings and the acquisition of approximately 22.5 acres of land located adjacent to Onondaga Hill Middle School. The tax impact was minimal; less than one-third of one percent. Phase I work was completed during the summer of 2009.

Facilities Planning for 21st Century Learning

In addition to the infrastructure needs of the buildings, the alterations and additions that have been prioritized in Phase II focus on improvements to our instructional program, space and land/site needs. Listed below is an overview of the major work to be done in each building (a complete list will be given in a separate newsletter).

- **Walberta Park:** Classroom renovations to accommodate expansion of half-day kindergarten to full-day kindergarten; renovations to the library/computer room, art classroom and special areas.
- **Cherry Road:** A seven-classroom addition to accommodate the relocation of grade two students currently located at Walberta; additions/renovations include a music room and a new cafeteria/kitchen that separates these areas from the gymnasium; renovations to the library/computer room.
- **Onondaga Hill Middle School:** A small addition and renovations to enlarge the library, computer room and industrial arts/technology classrooms; renovations to upgrade two art classrooms and locker rooms; land and site improvements to develop eight acres of new land for new and renovated fields, to include bathrooms and parking areas that will be accessed via a new entrance on Velasko Road.
- **Westhill High School:** A small addition and renovations to enlarge band and chorus classrooms; renovations to the cafeteria; site improvements include resurfacing of the track and installation of all-weather synthetic turf on the main playing field.

PROJECT PRESENTATION

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

7:00 pm

Westhill High School

Library

PROJECT VOTE

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

7 am - 9 pm

Westhill High School

Auditorium Foyer

(Grand Avenue entrance)