



WESTHILL
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

hill&vale

A Publication of the Westhill Central School District

June 2026

PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The proposed capital improvement project is intended to enhance and modernize district facilities to better support students, staff and the broader Westhill community.

The project includes targeted building system upgrades, reconfiguring the existing administration center to align with evolving educational needs, and improvements to both district and athletic facilities.

Collectively, these efforts are intended to provide safe, efficient, and adaptable environments, while positioning the district to meet current demands and future growth.

The referendum is divided into two propositions. Proposition 1 (\$48,000,000) is a base project, and Proposition 2 (\$25,850,000) is primarily for HVAC work at Cherry Road Elementary School and Onondaga Hill Middle School. Proposition 2 is contingent upon Proposition 1 passing.

The Westhill School District continually strives to provide our students with quality educational programs in a safe and healthy environment, while balancing its fiscal responsibilities to the community. The Board of Education is pleased that the majority of the funding support for this project is generated from state building aid. In addition, the project's local funding coincides with the retirement of existing school district debt from the Cherry Road expansion to minimize the tax rate impact. As you will read in this newsletter, the areas listed by building are critical to the infrastructure, program, and space needs of our buildings and grounds. We urge you to carefully read the following pages prior to voting on Thursday, June 11th.

We thank you for your consideration of this project.



INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, May 28, 2026

5:30 PM

Westhill High School
Library

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

6:00 PM

Westhill High School
Library

PROJECT VOTE

Thursday, June 11, 2026

7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Westhill High School
Auditorium Foyer (Grand
Avenue Entrance)

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WESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this project is to strengthen all four schools in the Westhill community by addressing key facility needs and improving district-wide resources.

WESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

- Boiler Replacement
- Mechanical Controls Upgrades
- Corridor Roof Replacement
- Exterior Lighting Upgrades (LED Energy Efficiency/Safety)

BASE REFERENDUM: \$4,900,000

ATHLETIC STADIUM

- Turf Field Replacement
- Track Resurfacing
- Stadium Lighting Replacement (LED Energy Efficiency)
- Scoreboard Replacement
- Lacrosse Safety Netting & Shot Clocks
- Batting Cage (Baseball/Softball)

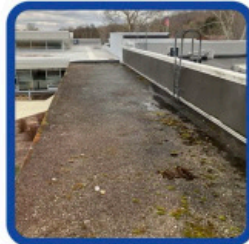
BASE REFERENDUM: \$5,000,000



CURRENT CONDITIONS



Mechanical Controls Upgrades



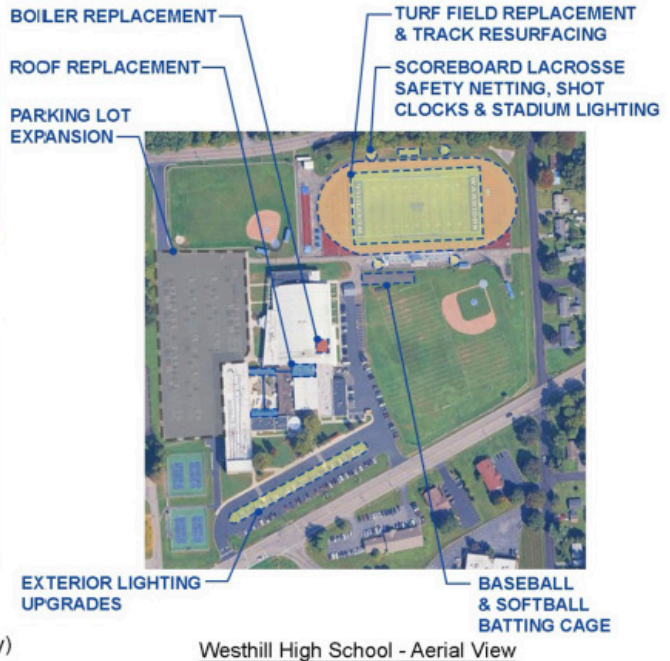
Roof Replacement



Fire Damaged Boiler



Upgrade Exterior Lighting at Entry & Front Parking Area (LED Efficiency & Safety)



Why?

- The boilers are approximately twenty years old, and the availability of repair parts has become problematic. This will greatly increase energy efficiency.
- Mechanical control upgrades will allow better temperature control, energy efficiency and occupant comfort in the building and significantly reduce our annual maintenance contract costs.
- The corridor roof replacement continues replacing the built-up roof system that is over 25 years old. Replacement is required due to water infiltration and saturation.
- The turf field is beyond its fifteen (15) year end of life and is showing significant signs of wear and tear.
- Existing track needs resurfacing to prevent further degradation of the rubber base.
- The scoreboard's control software is unreliable and not able to be updated.
- Exterior lighting upgrades will utilize energy efficient LED lighting.

ONONDAGA HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this project is to strengthen all four schools in the Westhill community by addressing key facility needs and improving district-wide resources.

- Gymnasium Upgrades
 - New Wood Floor
 - New Bleachers
 - Upgrade Gym Door Divider (Refurbish & Safety Devices)
- Boiler Replacement
- Partial Roof Replacement
- Replace Siding & Facade Restoration
- Replace Kitchen Exhaust Hood (Code Requirement)
- Mechanical Controls Upgrades
- Exterior Lighting Upgrades (LED Energy Efficiency/Safety)

PROPOSITION #1 - BASE
REFERENDUM: \$6,000,000

- Air-Conditioning (Entire Building)
- Ceiling & Lighting Upgrades
- Mechanical Controls Upgrades

PROPOSITION #2 - ADD
ALTERNATE: \$14,000,000



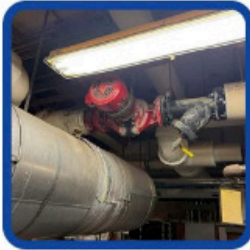
CURRENT CONDITIONS



Building Facade Restoration (Siding Replacement)



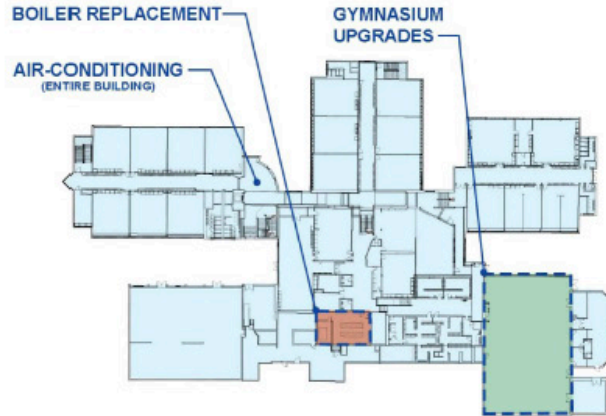
Gym Floor Replacement, New Bleachers & Gym Door Restoration (Safety Feature Added)



Mechanical Controls Upgrades



Brick Facade Restoration



Onondaga Hill Middle School - Second Floor Plan

Why?

- Due to advanced deterioration and lack of remaining wear surface, the existing gymnasium floor is beyond the point of restoration and requires full replacement.
- The partial roof replacement replaces the built-up roof system that is over 25 years old with an EPDM or TPO system.
- The siding is showing signs of cracks and gaps that need to be addressed before a bigger problem arises.
- The existing boilers are approximately twenty-five years old and should be upgraded to a more energy efficient model. This will improve reliability and significantly reduce annual energy consumption.
- Mechanical control upgrades will provide efficient temperature regulation throughout the building and significantly reduce our annual maintenance contract costs.
- The 5th and 6th grade wings are susceptible to temperatures above 88° F, which is the NYS mandated threshold. Proposition II includes a comprehensive plan to provide air conditioning for the entire building, ensuring a safe and productive learning environment that meets state mandates.

CHERRY ROAD ELEMENTARY

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this project is to strengthen all four schools in the Westhill community by addressing key facility needs and improving district-wide resources.

- Boiler Replacement (Conversion from Steam to Hot Water)
- Air-Conditioning (North & Central Wings)
- Ceiling & Lighting Upgrades
- Mechanical Controls Upgrades
- New Electrical Service Upgrade to Building

PROPOSITION #2 - ADD ALTERNATE : \$11,750,000



CURRENT CONDITIONS



Ceiling & Lighting Upgrades



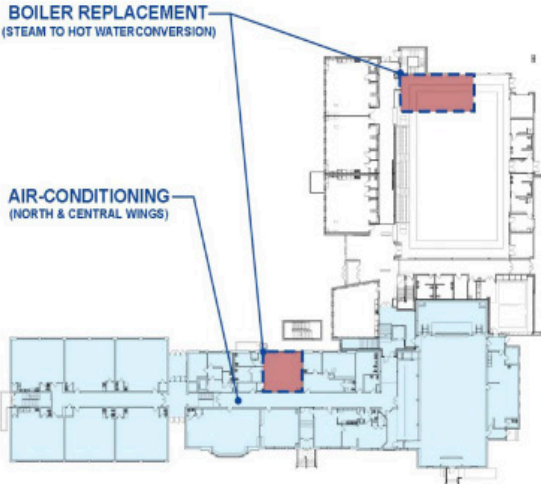
Mechanical Controls Upgrades



Mechanical Controls Upgrades



Ceiling & Lighting Upgrades



Cherry Road Elementary - First Floor Plan

Why?

- The north and central wings frequently exceed 88° F, which is the NYS mandated threshold. Proposition II includes air conditioning for these two wings.
- The existing heating system in the north and central wings is steam. Replacing the existing steam heating system with a more energy efficient hot water system will greatly increase overall efficiency.

WALBERTA PARK ELEMENTARY

PROJECT GOAL

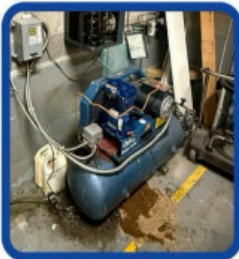
The goal of this project is to strengthen all four schools in the Westhill community by addressing key facility needs and improving district-wide resources.

- Boiler Replacement
- Mechanical Controls Upgrades
- New Universal Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms
 - (Part of NYS UPK Mandate for 2028-2029)
- Adaptive Reuse
 - Relocate & Renovation for New District Office at Former St. Ann's Church to allow for UPK Classrooms

PROPOSITION #1 - BASE REFERENDUM: \$4,500,000



CURRENT CONDITIONS



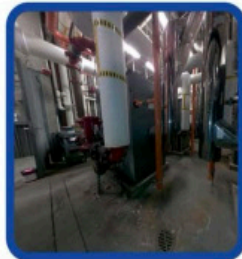
Mechanical Controls Upgrades



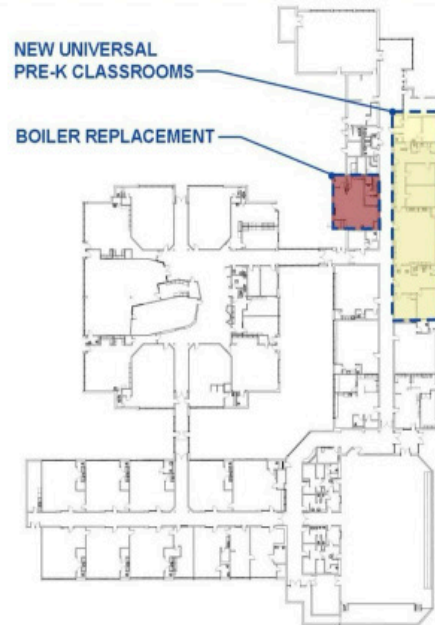
Boiler Replacement



Universal Pre-K Classroom Renovation



Mechanical Controls Upgrades



Walberta Park Elementary - First Floor Plan

Why?

- New York State has mandated school districts to have the capacity to enroll every pre-K student by 2028-29. We currently contract with Bellevue Heights and the YMCA; however, we currently do not have the capacity to meet the state mandate. This project will add the necessary UPK classrooms to Walberta Park Elementary School.
- The boilers are approximately twenty years old, and the availability of repair parts has become problematic. This will greatly enhance our energy efficiency.
- Mechanical control upgrades will allow better temperature control in the building and significantly reduce our maintenance contract costs.

TRANSPORTATION CENTER

PROJECT GOAL

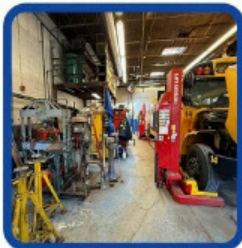
The goal of this project is to strengthen all four schools in the Westhill community by addressing key facility needs and improving district-wide resources.

- New Transportation Center
 - Scalable to EV buses per SED Mandate
- New Bus Driver Training Center
- Demolish old Rectory Building
- Demolish old Bus Garage to Expand Staff & Student Parking

BASE REFERENDUM: \$24,100,000



CURRENT CONDITIONS



Unsafe Clearance for Personnel, Equipment & Buses



Unsafe Fuel Tank Location in Drive Lane



Undersized & Unsafe Overhead Doors



Adaptive Reuse: District Office & Training Center



Why?

- The existing bus garage does not meet PESH or ADA requirements for staff safety and accessibility. In addition, the building has significant structural issues.
- Relocation of the transportation facility and bus parking areas will create needed expansion of student and staff parking adjacent to the high school. Additionally, this will allow for better use of space and the possibility to add an additional practice field to the west side of the property.
- New York State has mandated zero emission buses (ZEB), and the new bus garage and bus parking areas can be designed to allow the district to comply with the mandate assuming the current law becomes reality. We are not investing in charging stations for buses; however, the new bus parking area will be scalable to meet the mandate if the time arises.

PROPOSITION I - \$48,000,000 (zero increase in taxes)

Cost on home with a \$250,000 FV assessment				
\$179	-	\$179	=	\$0
Tax Impact per Year		Tax Impact of Retiring		Net Tax Impact
		Debt from prior		Per Year
		Capital Projects		

PROPOSITION II - \$25,850,000 (phased increase in taxes)

Cost on home with a \$250,000 FV assessment				
\$129	-	\$0	=	\$129
Tax Impact per Year		Tax Impact of Retiring		Net Tax Impact
(phased in over 4 years		Debt from prior		Per Year
at + \$32/year)		Capital Projects		

REVENUE SOURCES

PROPOSITION I - \$48,000,000

\$39,250,080 - NYS BUILDING AID (est.)
 \$ 3,000,000 - CAPITAL RESERVE & FUND BALANCE
 \$ 5,749,920 - LOCAL SHARE

PROPOSITION II - \$25,850,000

\$21,137,803 - NYS BUILDING AID (est.)
 \$ 4,712,197 - LOCAL SHARE

PROJECT SCHEDULE	START	FINISH
<i>Public Referendum</i>	<i>June 11, 2026</i>	
<i>Project Design</i>	<i>June 2026</i>	<i>November 2026</i>
<i>SED Review/Approval</i>	<i>November 2026</i>	<i>February 2027</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>April 2027</i>	<i>September 2028</i>

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Andrew Starowicz, President
Lisa O'Reilly, Vice President
Andrew Hunter
Christopher Haigney
Kelly Ristoff Coholan

The Westhill Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, sex or race in its employment practices or educational programs.

PROJECT VOTE:

Thursday, June 11, 7AM - 9PM Westhill High School, Auditorium
Foyer (Grand Avenue Entrance)

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS:

As stipulated by New York State Law, the following qualifications must be met in order to vote:

- (1) You must be a citizen of the United States;
- (2) You must be at least eighteen years of age; and
- (3) You must be a resident of the district for at least thirty (30) days prior to June 11, 2026.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

If a qualified voter needs to have an absentee ballot mailed to them, a completed application form must be submitted to the District Clerk prior to June 4, 2026. If a resident does not need the ballot mailed to them, the completed application form must be submitted to the District Clerk by 4PM on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. Any questions should be directed to Laurie Lowe, District Clerk, at (315) 426-3272.

WHAT IT SAYS ON THE BALLOT:

PROPOSITION I

Shall the Board of Education undertake a capital improvement project at all District buildings and facilities including, but not limited to improvements to exterior athletic facilities, fields and courts; playgrounds; upgrades to parking areas and sidewalks; replacement and upgrading of fixtures, equipment and exterior lighting; roof replacements; improvements to interior HVAC and boiler systems and controls; construction of a new transportation center with renovations to the existing on-site building and demolition of the Rectory and old bus garage

including for all, site improvements, original furnishings, fixtures and equipment, architectural fees, and all other necessary costs incidental to such work and expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$48,000,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and to pay for the project by using \$650,000 from the 2015 Capital Reserve and \$2,350,000 of available District funds and for the balance, by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted for the Project in the amount of \$48,000,000, subject to available State Aid, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$48,000,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

PROPOSITION II

If Proposition I passes, shall the Board of Education undertake an additional project consisting of the construction of interior HVAC and boiler systems and controls and ceiling, lighting and air-conditioning improvements at Cherry Road Elementary and Onondaga Hill Middle School at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$25,850,000 which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof and obtain the necessary funds by using any available state aid and the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the School District to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board of Education shall determine and in anticipation of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$25,850,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due?