



Clarence Central School District Proposed Capital Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Where did the initial recommendations for the capital project come from?*

A: The Clarence Board of Education established a Citizens' Task Force that met from November 2013 through June 2014 to examine capital improvement needs, determine if a capital project was necessary, and recommend a scope for the project. The eleven community members on the Task Force made their recommendations to the Board of Education on June 16, 2014. The main resource used by the Task Force was the Building Conditions Survey, a mandatory document revised every five years that lists prioritized elements in every school building that are past their useful life cycle, need repair or replacement, and/or fail to meet current code requirements.

Q: *What are the recommendations for the capital project?*

A: There are two project recommendations. First, a \$27.9 million repair and maintenance project that will touch all six school buildings and the bus garage is recommended. The scope of work in the project will include safety and security upgrades, general repairs, flooring, roof replacements, electrical, HVAC and technology upgrades. Second, a \$5 million athletic field renovation that would install artificial turf in the existing football stadium and on the baseball and softball fields is recommended.

Q: *Why does the district need athletic fields with artificial turf?*

A: Clarence athletic fields are in generally poor condition and maintaining the fields properly given consistent overuse and poor weather is a challenge. Synthetic surfaces allow for extended usage regardless of weather conditions, not only for athletics, but also for PE classes at Clarence High School and for community teams. The athletic facilities project will be presented as a separate resolution for voters, and it is contingent on the successful passage of the renovation and maintenance project.

Q: *What will the proposed project cost Clarence taxpayers?*

A: New York State will provide state aid for approximately 70% of the project. That allows the District to leverage \$9.8 million of local taxpayer dollars in order to gain \$23 million of state funds for the projects. If both projects were approved, and the District allocates \$3 million of fund balance toward the local share, the estimated annual cost on a home valued at \$200,000 would be \$46 per year for 15 years.

Q: *Is there a cheaper way to get this work done?*

A: No. The District's annual budget cannot cover the cost of major repairs and maintenance, and the District would not receive any state aid back for work that is completed with general budget funds. In order to qualify for the 70% state aid reimbursement, voters in a school district must approve the borrowing of funds for the capital project, which are then paid back over 15 years. The historically low interest rates for borrowing makes the local share of a capital project smaller. Clarence has not had a major "fix-it" project for over 40 years and some systems in the school buildings are past their useful life. Preventative maintenance is essential in order to protect investments in the community's buildings and save money in the long term.

Q: *Where can I find out more detailed information about the proposed capital projects?*

A: The District has created a web page that is devoted to the topic of the proposed capital project. You can download presentations, view architectural drawings, view specific work that is scheduled, and watch video of the special Board of Education meeting that was devoted to this topic. You can link to the web page from the home page of the district website. The direct link to the web page is:
<http://www.clarenceschools.org/district.cfm?subpage=68606>