



MIDLAKES.ORG

# MIDLAKES JOURNAL

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE II  
OCTOBER 2019

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## FIND MORE AT MIDLAKES.ORG



**VIDEO:** A loaded boys varsity volleyball team sets its eyes on a deep run into the Sectional playoffs and beyond.



**VIDEO:** The Class of 2020 poses for a photo on the football/lacrosse field.



## CAPITAL PROJECT AIMS TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

On December 10, voters in the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District will decide on a \$15.6 million capital project to address a variety of needs on the Midlakes schools campus to enhance the educational experience for students while contributing to the safety, accessibility and longevity of the District's facilities.

The proposal calls for no additional increase in taxes to pay for the work. State building aid would pay for about 78 percent of the project with the remaining portion financed with funds already saved in a capital reserve fund.

Voters are encouraged to review the information provided in this newsletter and to attend an information session during the Board of Education meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18 or go to [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org) for more. Residents with specific questions or comments may contact the District Office at (315) 548-6420.

### ► PUBLIC MEETING

6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18  
Room 103, Elementary School,  
1500 State Route 488, Clifton Springs



A conceptual rendering of the new 7th and 8th grade cafeteria as a result of the capital project (does not represent a final design).

### ► PROJECT VOTE

Noon to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10  
7th/8th grade gymnasium  
1550 State Route 488, Clifton Springs

► GO ONLINE FIND MORE INFORMATION AT [MIDLAKES.ORG/FACILITIESPLANNING](http://MIDLAKES.ORG/FACILITIESPLANNING).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



# CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE IS DEC. 10

*Proposal addresses the most critical needs on campus.*

BY MATTHEW SICKLES | MSICKLES@MIDLAKES.ORG

Every building, like your home or business, requires regular upkeep and our schools are no different.

During the last several months, the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District has conducted an extensive review of our Building Condition Survey, a detailed analysis of district facilities required by the New York State Education Department. To assist in the facilities planning process, the District hired Rochester-based Edge Architecture.

A Facilities Committee comprised of community members, faculty, staff, Board of Education members and school administrators was established to help prioritize the areas needing the most immediate attention. While the District hopes to complete additional capital projects in the future, it was important to gather input on how to make the best use of state aid and local capital reserves available for this first project.

The committee met several times, toured areas of the campus, and brought additional perspectives to our planning. The District held a public meeting in June to gather feedback and answer questions. Board of Education meetings in October included additional information and feedback.

Based on those efforts, a \$15.6 million capital project will be presented to voters for approval on Tuesday, Dec. 10. The project focuses on four key areas:

- Students: Improving the spaces used by students.
- Safety: Upgrading technology and items that provide a more secure campus.
- Systems: Updating and improving heating, electrical, and plumbing systems.

- Site: Repairing athletic fields, renovating the bus garage, adding a new fueling station, and other site work.

Music, culinary arts, a cafeteria, and a woodshop in the secondary building will be renovated to meet the changing needs of valuable academic programs and provide better and safer work areas.

For example, the relocation of the 7th and 8th grade cafeteria closer to the kitchen and serving lines in the 9th-12th grade cafeteria will improve the daily experience of our students. This change will provide the opportunity to redesign and upgrade our band, chorus, and general music rooms located between the two cafeterias.

Student bathrooms will be updated and redesigned to meet current standards. Asbestos abatement, where needed, and upgrades to the heating and cooling systems will also be made.

Traffic flow and crowded parking at the Elementary School will be addressed by adding a new staff parking lot on the west side of the school along with design improvements for the student drop-off area. Increased parking in the main lot will also make it easier for visitors to access the building.

A new on-campus fueling station will increase the District's independence and improve daily operations. Additional work will be completed at our transportation facility to ensure its value and utility for years to come.

Repairs will be made to the football/lacrosse field, where a "crown" has developed that slopes significantly from the center of the field to the sidelines. The crown has compromised the integrity of

the playing surface while causing drainage issues. The leveling and resurfacing of the field and the planting of new grass will improve the safety and playing experience of our student-athletes.

This project results in no additional tax increase to property owners. State aid will fund approximately 78 percent of the project. District reserve funds will pay for the remaining costs.

In a separate but related effort, the District is submitting an application to use its \$1.7 million allocation through the state's Smart Schools Bond Act. These funds, which have already been designated to Midlakes by New York State, will allow us to make needed security enhancements to our schools, improve our computer networks, and more. The work associated with these enhancements will be coordinated as part of the capital project, but the funds will be provided through the Smart School Bond Act.

The Board of Education has planned a final presentation on the capital project during its November 18 meeting, but we will continue to provide details of the project with the community on our website, through social media, district newsletters, and elsewhere.

We believe this project addresses our most critical needs to ensure the integrity and longevity of our facilities, improves programs and opportunities for students, and maintains our fiscal responsibility to our community.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Facilities Committee, administration, faculty, staff, and students of Midlakes schools, thank you for your support.

## RPO RETURNS TO MIDLAKES

*The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra to perform with the Midlakes Chorus.*

► **7:30 P.M. TUESDAY, DEC. 3**

*For ticket and other information, call (315) 548-6420 or visit [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org).*





## CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Included are responses to some commonly asked questions on the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District's capital project.*

#### **Q Why is the project needed?**

**A** Several areas on the Midlakes schools campus need to be repaired or replaced while others need to be updated to accommodate the evolving needs of popular programs. The areas being addressed in the capital project were identified through a Building Condition Survey, meetings, and site tours by a Facilities Committee comprised of community members and school representatives, and Edge Architecture.

#### **Q What is a Building Condition Survey?**

**A** The Building Condition Survey is a five-year plan required by the state to collect information on District infrastructure and to prioritize facility needs. The survey assists with itemizing the needs of each building and prioritizing the most essential work.

#### **Q What would the cost be to local taxpayers?**

**A** The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District anticipates that no additional taxes would need to be levied to support the capital project. State building aid will cover approximately 78 percent of the project and the remain-

ing portion would be funded through a district capital reserve fund.

#### **Q What is the Smart Schools Investment Plan?**

**A** The Smart Schools Bond Act, approved by voters statewide in 2014, sets aside state funding for school districts to complete a wide range of technology and security improvements. The District is planning to pay for \$1,739,943 in upgrades through this separate funding stream.

#### **Q What upgrades will be made with funding through the Smart Schools Bond Act?**

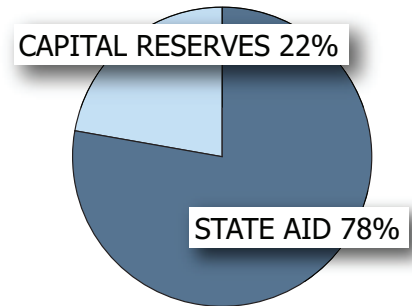
**A** The District plans to upgrade its Public Address system, install new door monitoring at all school buildings and new electronic door functions in large common areas and hallways. Additional improvements to spaces devoted to IT equipment and infrastructure will be made to meet new standards.

#### **Q What is the timeline for the project?**

**A** Detailed design work on the project will begin upon approval with construction anticipated to begin in the first half of 2022.

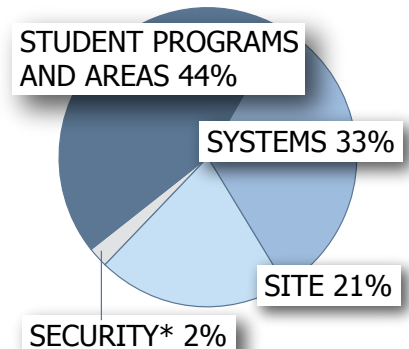
## HOW THE PROJECT WILL BE FINANCED

A large portion of the project will be funded by state building aid with the remaining portion or \$3.5 million coming from a District Capital Reserve Fund.



## HOW THE FUNDS WILL BE SPENT

The scope of the \$15.6 million capital project includes upgrades in the following categories.



\*Additional security and safety upgrades will be made as part of a separate \$1,739,943 Smart Schools Improvement Plan.

## VOTER INFO

► **VOTE:** Noon to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7th/8th grade gymnasium, 1550 State Route 488, Clifton Springs.

► **ELIGIBILITY:** Residents may vote who are at least 18, a resident for at least 30 days, and a U.S. Citizen.

► **ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter.

Completed applications received after 4 p.m. on Dec. 3 will require the voter to appear at the District Clerk's office to receive an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019. For more information, call (315) 548-6420.

## BALLOT PROPOSITION

**SHALL THE BOARD OF EDUCATION** be authorized to undertake a project consisting of renovations, reconstruction, alterations and improvements to the District's Middle/High School, Elementary School, Bus Garage and Maintenance Building, including all related site, pick-up and drop-off area and parking improvements, original furnishings, fixtures and equipment required for such purposes, architectural fees, and all other necessary costs incidental to such work, at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$15,600,000 and obtain the necessary funds by using any available state aid, up to \$3,500,000 from the Capital Reserve approved by the District's voters on May 17, 2016 and the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the School District in an amount not to exceed \$12,100,000 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 \$12,100,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

## CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW



# SCOPE OF THE CAPITAL

The work identified in the capital project is necessary to address building deficiencies, code and accessibility issues, and other items needed to maintain the proper delivery of the educational program.

The scope of work includes the following key upgrades:

### SECONDARY SCHOOL

- Renovate Culinary Arts room
- Install handicap accessible ramp (south parking lot)
- Add handicap parking (east lot)
- Fix sidewalks (west of middle school bus loop)
- Re-key entire building

- Add exhaust fans to chemistry rooms
- Add dust collection system and renovate woodshop
- Replace boilers
- Replace cooling towers
- Recoat interior pool surface
- Renovate and repair high school restrooms

- Convert 7th/8th grade cafeteria into music room
- Create better sightlines in performing arts hallway
- Move 7th/8th cafeteria near kitchen
- Replace the bleachers in 7th/8th grade gym
- Replace auditorium theatre lighting
- HVAC, electrical and plumbing upgrades
- Replace various air handling units
- Other miscellaneous work

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Redesign student drop-off area
- Add staff parking lot
- Add visitor parking

## CURRENT CONDITIONS



Music room



Bus garage



Culinary Arts



HVAC



## CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

### MIDLAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



# PROJECT

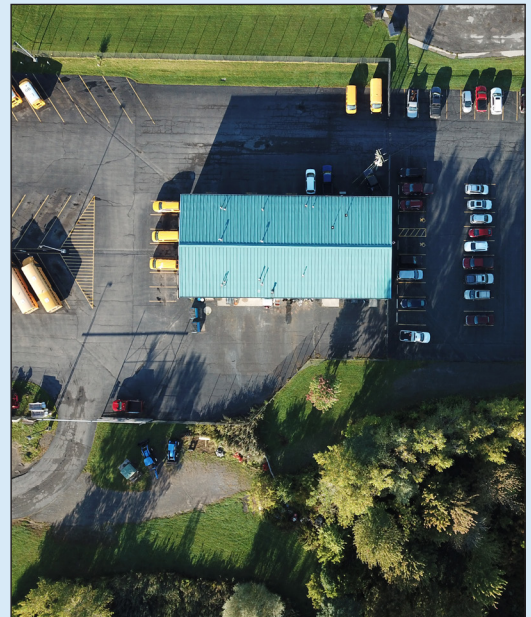
- Redesign bus loop
- Add handicap parking
- Re-key entire facility
- Renovate restrooms
- Add turnaround area for deliveries
- Replace boilers
- Repair handicap accessible ramps
- Redesign entrances to bus loop and the main parking lot
- Other miscellaneous work
- Make repairs to exterior metal walls
- Repair sidewalks
- Repair maintenance barn walls
- HVAC, electrical and plumbing upgrades
- Replace waste oil separator
- Other miscellaneous work

### TRANSPORTATION FACILITY

- Add fueling station
- Add covered salt storage area
- Widen driveway
- Replace overhead and main doors

### ATHLETIC FIELDS

- Fix the crown of the football/lacrosse field
- Replace goal posts
- Repair fences
- Update scoreboard
- Other miscellaneous work



### TRANSPORTATION FACILITY

Repairs would be made to the current transportation facility and maintenance barn to replace deteriorating walls, doors, and sidewalks, and upgrade electrical and heating systems.

The District also proposes to add a salt storage barn and an above ground fueling station to the area.



Boiler room



Restrooms





# SOARING VALOR

Several Midlakes juniors and seniors accompanied World War II veterans on a trip to the World War II Museum in New Orleans thanks to the Gary Sinise Foundation's Soaring Valor program and American Airlines. Honor Flight Rochester, the Veteran's Outreach Center in Rochester, leaders from Monroe County, and other organizations joined the send-off ceremony at the Greater Rochester International Airport. For more photos, visit [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org).



Midlakes students that went on the trip, included: Josiane Amidon, Jared Anderson, Kate Bennett, Megan Bowman, Halle Burgess, Aiden Cort, Dominic Crance, Skyler Davis, Lydia Day, Caroline Day, Meghann DeVito, Zack Edgemon, Gina Ferber, Lucas Garver, Paige Graham, Avery Hackett, Connor Harrington, Victoria Haynes, Abbey Herendeen, Conner Hicks, Annie Hyde, Zack King, Katrina Lee, Nathan Mahoney, Paige Mattoon, Mackenzie Mattoon, Emily Meisner, Ava Pendergast, Coby Reals, Walker Rearick, Denver Remacle-Grimm, Vincent Rivas, Simon Rizzo, Katelyn Roland, Victoria Rose, Nita Schumacher, Tyleek Sevor, Ella Sickles, Anna Smith, Trianna Stetzel, Josh VanDerlike, Grace Whiffen, and Lyndsey Wright.



## DISTRICT NOTES

### MIDLAKES TEACHERS NAMED 'MASTER TEACHERS'

Two more educators from Midlakes High School have been selected to join the New York State Master Teacher Program.

Richard Doan and Kyle Salisbury were among 228 educators accepted into the program.

Acceptance is the result of a highly competitive process spotlighting educators who teach math, science, technology and other STEM-related courses.

Both Midlakes educators thanked students, colleagues and school administrators for helping them get into the program.

Doan, a former varsity lacrosse coach,



**DOAN**



**SALISBURY**

has taught chemistry, Regents chemistry and Gemini Environmental Science through Finger Lakes Community College. He is currently the junior class advisor and Science Department chair.

Salisbury, the current boys varsity volleyball coach, teaches AP/Gemini calculus and geometry and has previously taught a variety of math and computer related courses. He currently serves as an assistant junior class advisor and is a member of Midlakes National Honor Society selection committee, theatre awards committee, and the senior scholarship committee.

### FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY WELCOMES 18 STUDENTS

A ceremony was recently held to induct Middle School students into the Midlakes chapter of the National French Honor Society.

Students become eligible by maintaining an average of 90 percent or higher in French and participate in at least one activity that promotes the French language, culture or activity related to a service-learning project.

Typically, students help teach French to younger students, organize cultural

celebrations, assist UNICEF, and more. The students are taught by Michelle Shenton.

Students participating in the ceremony, included Brianna Bump, Tianna Crossno, Dominic DeVito, Lilly Helker, Aiden Janas, Tyler Lantrip, Kendall Lawson, Amelia Maslyn, Breanna Plante, Alexis Ridley, Madison Robinette, Ethan Ruggles, Laura Rugiero-Altez, Leia Slack, Nicole Szalay, Branden Tackett, Riley Ward, and Sean White.

### SWIM LESSONS AT THE MIDLAKES AQUATICS CENTER

Registration for winter swim lessons will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21 at the Midlakes Aquatics Center.

These hour-long sessions have been tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m. on Jan. 4, Feb. 1 and 8, and at 9 a.m. on

Jan. 11 and 18. All dates are subject to change.

For additional information regarding pool programs, hours and other operations, contact Jack Hauber at (315) 548-6451 or jhauber@midlakes.org.

### DISTRICT HONORED FOR COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

The New York State Public Relations Association has recognized in its annual statewide contest three communications projects at Midlakes schools.

The projects were selected from 513 entries judged by communications professionals from around the country for NYSPRA.

The projects honored included:

- An Award of Honor for the redesign and relaunch of Midlakes.org.
- An Award of Merit for Excellence in Writing for a series of stories on the Midlakes Theatre Experience published in the *Finger Lakes Times* and on the District's website.
- An Award of Honor for a video on Garrett Karge: Alternative Path to Success.

## CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

**Winter JV & Varsity Sports Begin**  
Monday, Nov. 11

**Veterans Day (No School)**  
Monday, Nov. 11

**Parent Night for Instrument Sign-Ups**  
Thursday, Nov. 14

**Board of Education Meeting**  
Monday, Nov. 18

**Senior Trip to Washington D.C.**  
Saturday, Nov. 23 - Tuesday, Nov. 26

**Thanksgiving Recess**  
Wednesday, Nov. 27 - Friday, Nov. 29

**Musical Auditions**  
Monday, Dec. 2 - Friday, Dec. 6

**RPO Concert with Midlakes Chorus**  
Tuesday, Dec. 3

**K-6 Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
(Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.)  
Wednesday, Dec. 4 - Friday, Dec. 6

**Capital Project Vote**  
Tuesday, Dec. 10

**Superintendent's Conference Day**  
(No School)  
Wednesday, Dec. 11

**Family Literacy Night**  
Wednesday, Dec. 11

**Secondary School Concert**  
Thursday, Dec. 12

**PTO Movie Night**  
Friday, Dec. 13

**Board of Education Meeting**  
Monday, Dec. 16

**Grades 3-6 Holiday Concert**  
Tuesday, Dec. 17

**Winter Swim Registration**  
Saturday, Dec. 21

For more events, recent updates, the cycle day calendar and more, visit [Midlakes.org](http://Midlakes.org) and search for calendar under the "Community" tab.

## CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

# SETTING THE STAGE FOR SUCCESS

Residents of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District have the opportunity to provide further input on a \$15.6 million capital project designed to address a wide-range of facility needs across Midlakes schools during the Board of Education's meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18 in room 103 of the Elementary School.

District residents are asked to vote on the project from noon to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10 in the 7th/8th grade gym. Those with questions can call (315) 548-6420, or go to [Midlakes.org/facilitiesplanning](http://Midlakes.org/facilitiesplanning). The project addresses the following areas:



### ► STUDENTS

- Music room upgrades
- Auditorium lighting
- Technology shop work
- Culinary arts upgrades
- 7th/8th Cafeteria



### ► SAFETY

- Re-keying of facilities
- Classroom security
- Code compliance
- Bus loop redesign
- Security upgrades



### ► SYSTEMS

- Restroom repair
- Mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades
- Boiler work
- Asbestos abatement



### ► SITE

- Athletic field repairs
- Bus garage renovation
- Maintenance barn work
- New fueling station
- Technology upgrades



*NOTE: ALL RENDERINGS INCLUDED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND DO NOT REPRESENT FINAL DESIGNS.*

## NO PROJECTED INCREASE TO PROPERTY TAXES

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Send tips and suggestions to: Newsletter, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432



**PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
1490 STATE ROUTE 488  
CLIFTON SPRINGS, NY 14432

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