



**Campus Master Plan
Project 1 Community Forum Q&A
November 13, 2023**

Q: Will the district consider moving electric buses and the supporting infrastructure from Project 2 to Project 1?

A: Any bus purchased after 2027 is required to be electric. Therefore, it seems to make sense to consider including the infrastructure for electric buses in Project 1, instead of Project 2. This will ensure that the infrastructure is installed and ready in time for the acquisition of new vehicles.

The district has engaged with Central Hudson to complete a feasibility study to guide the district's efforts to convert its fleet to electric buses. The feasibility study is expected to be complete later this school year.

Q: Will the high school addition provide more classroom space?

A: The high school addition includes four classrooms. These classrooms will replace instructional space that is currently housed in the Mabel Merritt building. The new classrooms will be significantly larger and will eliminate the current constraints of those in the Mabel Merritt building (obstructed student/teacher views, damaged floors, space limitations, phone connectivity, etc.).

The high school addition also includes a versatile student center to serve as a dedicated lunch space for high school students, as well as a multipurpose room for student and faculty collaboration. A new student support suite will provide the administration, guidance department, and student services staff appropriate spaces to support student mental health, college and career planning, and other confidential needs. Lastly, the high school addition includes a STEAM Innovation lab, which will be utilized for specific courses that integrate the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

Q: How will the Mabel Merritt building be utilized once the classrooms are removed?

A: Following some remediation, the district will explore how the Mabel Merritt building may support additional business offices (financial, human resources, pupil personnel, and administration) and campus storage needs.



Q: What is included in the 10.5% net tax increase?

A: The estimated cost of Project 1 is \$35.7 million. If the project is approved taxpayers would realize a 10.5% increase to their taxes (approximate 3.5% per year for 3 years).
Note: The scope of Project 1 is currently being refined. A reduced total cost and tax impact are anticipated.

Q: Where can I view a breakdown of the costs in Project 1?

A: The full Campus Master Plan, adopted on October 3, 2023, is available on the [Haldane website](#). The plan includes the detailed components of each phase, including estimated costs.

Q: What incidentals are included in the budgeting of each project phase?

A: The estimates include cost contingencies, escalation, construction contingencies, furniture, project management, and architecture and engineering fees.

Q: When will the community be asked to vote on Project 1?

A: The Board of Education and district administration anticipate presenting a Campus Master Plan Project 1 referendum for community vote in the fall of 2024.

Q: Will the district offer campus tours to help community members and parents better understand the improvement/expansion needs in each of the school buildings?

A: Yes, the district recognizes that many community members and parents may not be familiar with the current needs and constraints in each of our school buildings. Included in the pre-referendum communication will be the opportunity for individuals to explore these areas in person to learn more about how the proposed components of Project 1 will directly support students, faculty, and staff.

Q: Which projects or areas of improvement are considered priorities by Haldane's faculty?

A: Haldane teachers, staff members, and administrators have been actively involved in all phases of the Campus Master Plan to date. CSArch met with faculty focus groups and several faculty members were included in the Campus Master Planning Committee to provide suggestions and feedback in the development of the plan.

Q: How will the construction phases impact student/campus life on a daily basis?

If and when a project is approved by the community, the district leadership will work with the project manager to ensure that the appropriate accommodations are made to maintain a safe and functional learning environment for students and staff.



Q: Why is lighting for the turf field not included in the Campus Master Plan? What factors need to be considered when deciding whether to add lights to the existing Field?

While it is not reflected in the Campus Master Plan, the district has the option to consider adding lights to the turf field in a capital project. In general, many projects for school districts fall into code sub-section (C)(10) and have respective SEQRA actions that must be met. A lighting analysis would be required to determine the optimal light usage allowable in the area, as well as Dark Skies considerations.

Q: How will the new STEAM labs and outdoor learning spaces be integrated into the curriculum?

The district's curriculum already accounts for a variety of STEAM-based lessons, as well as outdoor learning. These options could be further expanded if the district had dedicated space for multidisciplinary projects.

Q: What factors will determine the new heating and cooling installation plans?

There are many factors to be considered in determining the most appropriate heating and cooling system. Among the most important:

- Cost of installation (including incentives available at the time of construction)
- Energy efficiency
- The full architectural scope of the project, construction phasing (especially in older buildings), and how to best align with that work
- Ease and cost of future maintenance

Q: Is the district exploring a transition to all electric heat/energy?

Based on the volume of feedback related to the HVAC work in the Main Building, the district will be developing a separate workgroup to explore fuel source options, feasibility, and costs.

Q: Will the HVAC project involve reusing any of the existing steam piping?

We do not plan on reusing any of the steam piping. It has been noted in multiple previous investigations that the steam piping is failing. Also, hot water systems operate at a higher pressure than steam systems, we anticipate that new piping will be required.

Q: What is the status of the energy performance contract that was initiated in 2012?

The existing energy performance contract expires in 2027. At that time, the district has the option to engage in a new energy performance contract to address the same areas.



Q: Are there additional forums scheduled or future opportunities for community input?

Community members are welcome to attend and share feedback at a Board of Education meeting, or to email the Board or Superintendent directly at board@haldaneschool.org or pbenante@haldaneschool.org. The next meetings of the Board of Education are Tuesday, December 19, 2023 and Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The Board plans to finalize the scope of Project 1 at the January 16, 2024 meeting.