

Pittsford Schools

75 Barker Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
pittsfordschools.org/2023CapitalProject

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Pittsford Schools

Capital Improvement Project

*Focus on Secure Entrances, Academic Space Renovations,
Equitable Facilities and Efficient Space Utilization*

\$69,822,169
Capital Project
*There is no planned
increase in the tax
levy as it relates to this
capital project**

Pittsford Schools constantly strives for continuous improvement to create the best learning environment for its almost 6,000 students. A capital improvement referendum is on the ballot March 28, 2023, with a focus on school security renovations across all nine schools while addressing instructional inequities across the secondary schools. Priorities within this project include the elimination of portable classrooms at Barker Road Middle School (BRMS) that are beyond their useful life, heightening security of all main entrances with the installation of double-door vestibules, providing emergency generators at all schools, creating more parity between Mendon High School (MHS) and Sutherland High School (SHS) science rooms while enhancing space for Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) courses, adding instructional and commons area spaces at BRMS and creating space for mental health resources.

School Safety, Repairs and Renovations

The District manages repairs and improvements through a five year, NYSED mandated facilities assessment called a Building Condition Survey. This report is used to prioritize necessary repairs and educational components that fall outside the scope of the District's annual operating budget. This project reflects a portion of the \$300,000,000 Buildings Condition Report. After studying this report and gathering feedback from community members, principals, teachers, maintenance, athletics and several other sources, the Board of Education has adopted a resolution for community consideration that includes:

- ▶ More secure single point-of-entry with double-door vestibules at every school
- ▶ Installing emergency generators, intruder locks for large assembly areas, and HVAC systems while addressing repairs to building roofs, exteriors and windows
- ▶ Renovations and a two-story addition to MHS that will include new science classrooms and labs to improve safety and enhance STEM education
- ▶ Removing the outdated portable classrooms located at BRMS, as required by the State Education Department (SED)
- ▶ Addressing a trend of escalating student mental health needs with dedicated spaces for students to meet with mental health providers like social workers, behavioral specialists, psychologists and counselors
- ▶ Creating a commons area at Barker Road Middle School, as many students currently eat in the hallway
- ▶ Improved competitive and community athletic resources by replacing SHS and MHS tennis courts, adding pickleball courts at both high schools, adding multipurpose track and field surface at BRMS, enhancing drainage on secondary athletic fields, and making renovations to MHS pool facility

The timing of this proposed project coincides with the repayment of debt and is a result of careful long-range financial planning to minimize the impact on the tax levy.

For illustration purposes, a proposed project like this would have cost an estimated \$67 annually on a home assessed for \$300,000.

However, the cost of this new project will be covered by the drop in debt from a previous capital project. Therefore, there is no planned increase in the tax levy.

What You'll Vote On

- ▶ Authorization for a capital improvement project consisting of alterations, renovations, and improvements to the District's school buildings and associated facilities for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$69,822,169
- ▶ The expenditure of \$14 million from the District's existing Capital Reserve Fund
- ▶ Authorization for the District to borrow an amount not to exceed \$55,822,169

Why Now?

- ▶ Sensitivity to the economic impacts of COVID-19
- ▶ It has been over a decade since the last capital project
- ▶ The cost of this new project will be covered by the drop in debt from a previous capital project. Therefore, there is no planned increase in the tax levy

Public Forums

Comprehensive presentation with time allotted for questions and answers

- **January 31, 2023**
BRMS Cafeteria
6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **February 8, 2023**
MHS Commons
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Vote March 28, 2023

**7 a.m. – 9 p.m. at Barker Road Middle School
gymnasium, 75 Barker Road**

Why are Capital Projects Necessary?

- ▶ Provides the best and safest learning environments for our students
- ▶ Protects property values
- ▶ Maximizes State Aid as building projects garner State Aid that is not accessible in an operating budget
- ▶ Provides for major capital expenditures that are not part of the annual operating budget. This approach also reduces construction costs through bulk purchasing



Absentee Ballots – If you are unable to vote in person on March 28, 2023, you may request an absentee ballot application by contacting the District Clerk's office at 267-1057 or email your request to Cynthia_Coleman@pittsford.monroe.edu.

Voter Eligibility – Qualified voters must be a citizen of the United States of America, eighteen (18) years of age or older, and a resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the date of the vote. Proof of residency may include the following valid and current documents: New York State driver's license, New York State non-driver identification card, utility bill, or voter registration card. Voters shall also be required to provide their signature and printed name

Vote **March 28, 2023 • 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.**
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**Town of Pittsford based on 2022-23 factors, including Basic STAR exemption*

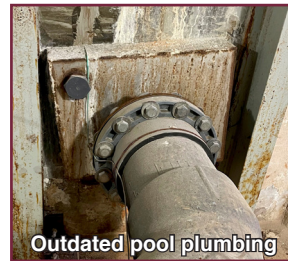
Secondary Schools

All schools will receive necessary renovations, but for this project, improvements at Barker Road Middle School and Mendon High School have been prioritized as Sutherland High School and Calkins Road Middle School were prioritized in the 2002 capital project.

- ▶ Upgrade school entrances with more secure double-door vestibule entrances for single point-of-entry
- ▶ Enhancement to security systems (cameras, card readers, PA system)
- ▶ Remove BRMS portable classrooms that are beyond useful life, per State Education Department mandate. Parts of the small gym, locker rooms, pool and kitchen will be reduced to repurpose as replacement classroom space
- ▶ Renovate and repurpose spaces to allow better access to mental health services at Barker Road Middle School and Mendon High School
- ▶ Better align high-quality instructional spaces between the two high schools by adding new science classrooms at Mendon High School
- ▶ For student safety, increase square footage of science classrooms and lab spaces through an addition and renovation at Mendon High School
- ▶ SHS and MHS new competitive tennis courts with the addition of pickleball courts
- ▶ Install emergency generators and intruder locks for large assembly areas, while addressing exterior building repairs
- ▶ Improve air quality by replacing and upgrading HVAC systems; exterior building and window repair/replacements; sewer line
- ▶ Roofing renovations
- ▶ Renovations to MHS pool, including locker rooms, bleachers, new scoring system, general maintenance repairs and tile



Portable Classrooms



Outdated pool plumbing



Cracked pool foundation

BRMS Portable Classrooms

By removing a dilapidated pool and downsizing other ancillary areas such as the kitchen and locker rooms to repurpose space, the old portable classroom trailers will be eliminated



Commons at BRMS

Renovation of the Barker Road Middle School commons area would open up currently separated cafeteria spaces, allowing all students to eat together and create a large assembly space for students and the community, like the Commons at Calkins Road Middle School



Science Rooms at MHS

Renovations and an addition would bring Mendon High School science labs and classrooms into safety compliance and on par with Sutherland High School

Vote **March 28, 2023**
7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
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Elementary Schools

- ▶ Upgrade school entrances with more secure double-door vestibule entrances for single point of entry
- ▶ Enhancement to security systems
- ▶ Install emergency generators and intruder locks for large assembly areas, while addressing exterior building repairs
- ▶ Improve air quality by replacing and upgrading HVAC systems
- ▶ Repurpose locker rooms to improve space utilization
- ▶ Create dedicated spaces for mental health services to address increasing youth mental health issues
- ▶ Roofing renovations

\$69,822,169 Proposed Capital Project

Leveraging State Aid

"Building aid" provided by New York State reduces the cost of school construction for local taxpayers. Principal and interest costs for eligible capital improvement projects are reimbursed by the state at rates calculated for each district. For every dollar borrowed, the state would reimburse the district for approximately 74.9% for all eligible expenses. These funds can only be accessed for approved capital projects.

Utilizing Capital Reserves

The proposed capital project proposition also authorizes the District to utilize \$14 million in capital reserve funds that have already been saved to pay for a capital project. These funds were authorized by the voters for the sole purpose of reducing the impact on the tax levy for future capital projects.

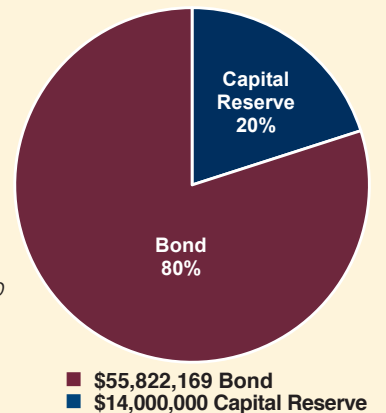
Predictable Debt Service

The District recently paid off over \$5.1 million in debt related to the 2002 construction project which heavily focused on Calkins Road Middle School and Sutherland High School. In order to minimize the cost to taxpayers, the District can use a portion of the previous tax levy to support the proposed capital project. This will result in no additional taxes needed to support the tax levy.

Tax Impact

The timing of this proposed project was carefully planned to coincide with the repayment of debt and is a result of careful long-range financial planning to minimize the impact on the tax levy. For illustration purposes, a proposed project like this **would have** cost an estimated \$67 annually on a home assessed for \$300,000. However, the cost of this new project will be covered by the drop in debt from a previous capital project.

There is no planned increase in the tax levy as it relates to this capital project.



Timeline

- 2019-2021** Conducted building condition survey per State Education Department requirements
- 2022** May - December..... Planning
- 2023** January - February..... State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)
 - January 31..... Public Forum, 6:30 p.m., BRMS Cafeteria
 - February 7..... Regular Board of Ed Meeting, 7 p.m., BRMS McCluski Room
 - February 8..... Public Forum, 6:30 p.m., MHS Commons
 - March 28..... Vote, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., BRMS Gym
- 2024-27** If referendum passes, construction begins

