



Chester Union Free School District

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# Referendums

## Safety Capital Project

## Transfer of Maple Avenue Building

April 24, 2024

Board of Education Meeting



# Safety Capital Project Referendum

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**Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity**

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

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## **Safety Capital Project Referendum**

Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.

This referendum will be included on the ballot.



# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

- **Expanding Partitions and Doors in Elementary School Cluster Areas**
  - to strengthen secure zones and facilitate efficient emergency response.
  - \$445,000





# Safety Capital Project Referendum

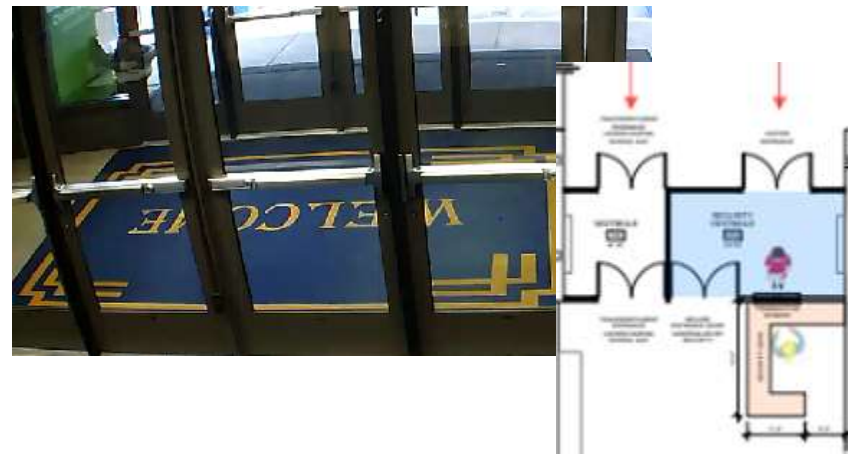
## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

- **Constructing Transactional Spaces for Visitor Screening at Chester Elementary School (CES) and Chester Academy (CA)**
  - to establish a dedicated entry point for enhanced visitor management and security screening procedures.
  - \$645,000





# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

#### ➤ Integrating Exterior Door Contacts with the Security System

- to enable automated notifications via email and text alerts when doors remain open beyond predetermined thresholds, enhancing perimeter security.
- \$52,000





# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

#### ➤ Implementing Digital Accessibility for Classroom Doors

- to enhance security and streamline access control measures for staff and authorized personnel.
- \$387,000





# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

## Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

### ➤ Installing Interior and Exterior Lockdown Strobes

- to provide clear visual cues and prompt responses during emergency lockdown situations.
- \$58,000





# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

#### ➤ **Adding Announcement Speakers for Enhanced Communication**

- to ensure effective dissemination of critical information and instructions throughout school premises.
- \$58,000







# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

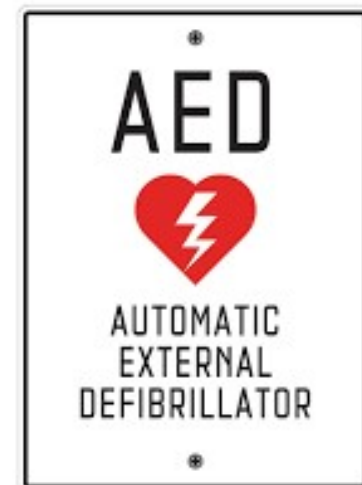
Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

#### ➤ **Placing Emergency Pedestals with AEDs and Automatic 911 Dispatch throughout exterior locations**

- to provide immediate access to life-saving equipment and expedite emergency response efforts.
- \$84,000





# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

➤ **Applying Attack-Resistant Film on Designated Areas for Enhanced Security**

- to significantly impede unauthorized entry attempts and enhance overall facility security measures.
- \$54,000





# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

#### ➤ **Emergency Response and Control Center**

- to coordinate support operations during incidents, ensuring efficient management of resources and personnel.
- \$84,000





# Safety Capital Project Referendum

## Strengthening Safety, Security and Opportunity

Facility Upgrades for Security, Energy Efficiency & Student Opportunity

### Safety Capital Project Referendum

*Adds measures to strengthen overall safety and security posture, mitigate risks, and ensure the well-being of students, staff, and visitors.*

- Total Cost for the Safety Capital Project \$1,867,000.
- The costs of the project and the related borrowing costs are eligible for New York State Building Aid at 67.7% (in 2024 budget proposal)
- The net cost to the local taxpayer:
  - \* Based on the average home in Chester and current 2023 tax rates.

	<u>Annual Cost</u>	<u>Total over 15 years</u>
If Bonded for 15 years at 3.5% =	\$ 16.50	\$ 248



# Transfer of Maple Avenue Building Referendum

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## Referendum

### Transfer of Maple Avenue Building

**Transfers ownership of the Maple Avenue School and portion of the property to the municipality of Orange County.**

**Chester UFSD will retain ownership and use of the gym building and athletic fields.**

**This referendum will be included on the ballot.**



# Transfer of Maple Avenue Building Referendum

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## Referendum Transfer of Maple Avenue Building

Consistent with all former presentations on options for consideration this year:  
**This transfer does not include the 1965 gym or athletic fields currently in use.**



**This referendum will be included on the ballot.**



# Review of History and Community Engagement

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## MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING **History: 1935 Building**

Built in 1935 and opened in 1937 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration project with an art deco design.

The yellow brick building has sculptural elements and a clock tower with a copper cupola bell tower and finial.





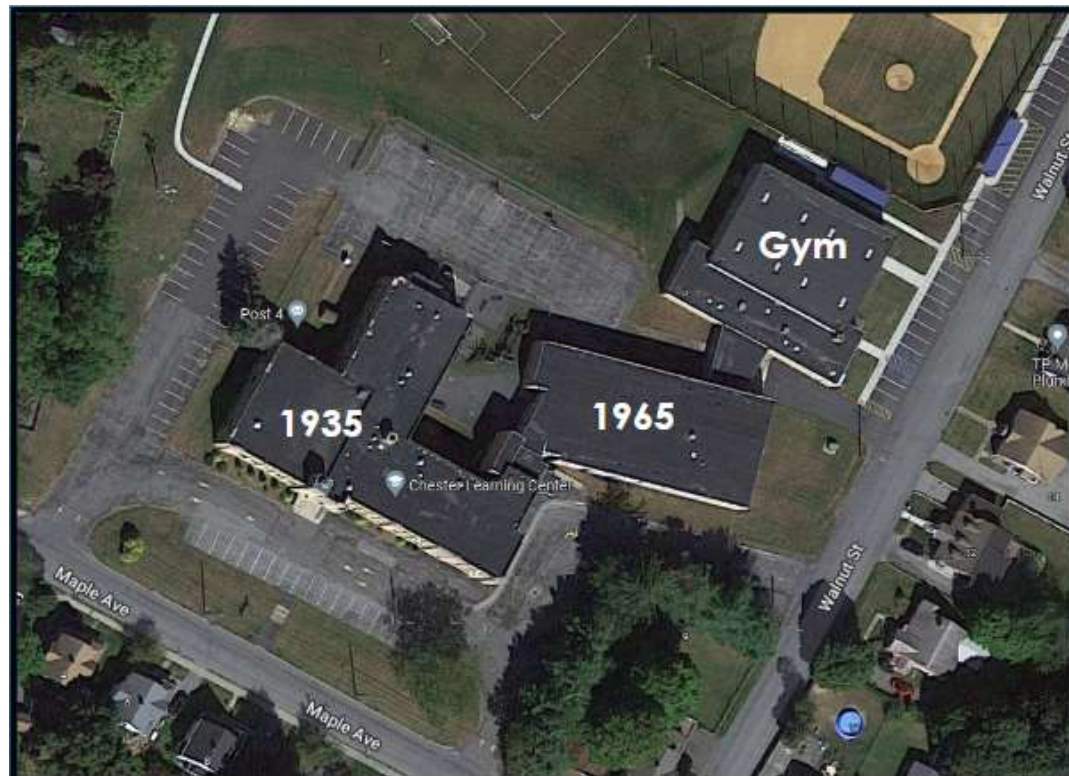
# Review of History and Community Engagement

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## MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING History: 1935 and 1965 Building

In 1965, the building was expanded to accommodate the growing student population.

In 2003, Maple Avenue graduated its last class.



The building was then occupied by Orange-Ulster BOCES for 15 years.





# Review of History and Community Engagement

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## MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING **History: 2004 - 2019**

- From 2004-2019 the Chester School District leased both the 1965 & 1935 sections of the building to Orange Ulster BOCES.
- In 2016 a building condition survey was completed by CS ARCH Architectural, outlining \$3,279,000 in building repairs. A BCS is required every 5 years. (*New York State Education law 409-D*)
- Following the 2018-2019 school year, BOCES terminated their lease agreement and vacated the Maple Avenue School citing deteriorating conditions.



# Review of History and Community Engagement

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## MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING **History: 2020 Capital Project Proposal**

In 2020, the District proposed a \$7.9 million dollar Capital Project to level the building and construct a multi-purpose athletic facility while preserving many of the historical features of the 1935 building.



**This project was overwhelmingly voted down.**

In 2021, the District made the decision to “mothball” this location with the exception of the 1965 gymnasium.



# Review of History and Community Engagement

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## MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING July 3, 2023 Storm Damage

- Severe high winds caused a failure of the roofing system over the 1965 section of the building.





# Review of History and Community Engagement

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## MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING **Current Status**

- ▶ The damaged roof of the 1965 building has been replaced.
- ▶ All damaged materials, including walls, ceilings and floors have been environmentally remediated (removed under controlled conditions).
- ▶ More than half of the known asbestos in the 1965 side has been removed.
- ▶ There are no utilities to either the 1965 or the 1935 building. Only temporary lighting for security checks are in place.
- ▶ The district will be reimbursed for the value of the damaged infrastructure and stored items by our insurance carrier, New York State Insurance Reciprocal (NYSIR).

### Maple Ave Info

[Important Information](#) ↗

[Building History](#) ↗

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) ↗

[Community Survey](#) ↗

[Home](#) > [Maple Ave Info](#) > [Important Information](#) > [Home](#)



# Review of History and Community Engagement

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## DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The Chester Union Free School District and the Chester community need to make a decision regarding the future of the Maple Avenue school building. To find the best solution, the District is fully committed to a process that:

- Explores all available options
- Provides transparency, and
- Involves the community

The District will utilize resources such as its administrative team, its Parent Advisory Panel, independent consultants and a newly created Maple Avenue Task Force that includes representatives from various entities in the town and village. In addition, the community will have the opportunity to give their thoughts in a community survey and open community forums.



CHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING**

FACT SHEET

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# Review of History and Community Engagement

## MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING Community Engagement Timeline

DATE	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	OBJECTIVE
Thursday, October 5, 2023	CUFSD Parent Advisory Panel Meeting	Overview of District Goals Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Input on community survey and presentation on Maple Avenue Representatives (4) identified for Maple Avenue Task Force
Monday, October 16, 2023	Maple Avenue Task Force Meeting #1	Purpose & objectives defined Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Input & discussion on results of Maple Avenue Task Force Survey
Friday, October 20, 2023 - Friday, November 3, 2023	Survey open to the community for input	Opportunity for all community members to provide input on the options for consideration.
Wednesday, November 8, 2023	BOE Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration	Public Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration
Monday, November 20, 2023	Maple Avenue Task Force Meeting #2	Review Community Survey Results
Tuesday, November 21, 2023	BOE Presentation of Community Survey Results	Public Presentation of Community Survey Results Announce Community Forum Wednesday, November 29
Wednesday, November 29, 2023	Community Forum	Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Presentation of Community Survey Results, Input Q & A



# Review of History and Community Engagement

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## MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING COMMUNITY SURVEY **Additional Information/Clarification on Input**

Clarification: *Repurpose the Building to a Community Center*

The School District cannot repurpose the building to a community center or non-school related use. Such use would not be eligible for state aid from NYSED and therefore not a feasible option for the District.

A gift of deed to a local municipality would achieve this goal. The District has not been formally notified of any interest at this time.



## Transfer of Maple Avenue Building Referendum

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The Board of Education has reviewed all options for consideration inclusive of sale, demolition and mothball, where the building would continue to deteriorate.

An opportunity was presented to the Board of Education which accomplished many of our original goals, including the creation of a community facility.

- The Maple Avenue Building would be under the ownership and operation of Orange County.
- Chester schools will maintain ownership and use of the 1965 gym and athletic fields.





# Additional Information

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Additional budget information and updates will be available on the District's website:

[www.ChesterUFSD.org](http://www.ChesterUFSD.org)



# Additional Information

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May 21, 2024

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## **BUDGET VOTE**

**SCHOOL SAFETY CAPITAL PROJECT  
REFERENDUM**

**MAPLE AVENUE TRANSFER  
REFERENDUM**

**Vote for Two Board of Education Seats**