

North Tonawanda City Schools



Capital Project Issue

NT Spirit October 2015

"Adding, Adapting, and Upgrading our Buildings and Athletic Facilities For the Next Generation"



New gymnasium for Grades 7-8



High School athletic complex entrance

No Cost to Taxpayers

With aid from the state, use of a previously approved Capital Building Project Reserve Fund along with credits through the federal QZAB program, the net cost to the district will be ZERO. More funding information on pages 6-7.

Message from your

Board of Education President - Cheryl McMahon

The North Tonawanda Board of Education encourages you to take the opportunity to vote on our capital project to improve the quality of academics and athletics in North Tonawanda. The scope of this project is outlined in this edition of the NT Spirit.

Over the last six months, the board, district staff and community members have worked together to assemble this capital project to benefit the students and residents of North Tonawanda. **This project will have a \$0 tax impact.** We believe that this capital project, when passed, will position the district to deliver the educational environment our children deserve to be better prepared for their post K-12 lives in the community.

The school district is engaging in a capital project for four primary reasons. First, the district qualifies for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds; second is a number of items that were identified in the Five Year Building Condition Survey need to be addressed in the near future; third this gives us the opportunity to efficiently implement optimal grade level configurations where we can use staff in the most effective manner and offer students better opportunities to maximize their educational experiences; and finally we can enhance our athletic fields for our students and community to use.

If this is the first time you have become aware of the project I encourage you to visit the district website at www.ntschoools.org and to like us on our Facebook page for more information. Please take a few minutes to read this edition of the Spirit for an understanding of the whole project. If you have questions, please contact any school board member or the Superintendent's office.

We have a number of exciting changes that we are confident will benefit students and taxpayers of the North Tonawanda City School District. Your vote is important and we encourage you to let your voice be heard on October 27, 2015. Voting will take place at the North Tonawanda High School Alumni Center from noon - 9 p.m.

Sincerely,

Board of Education President Cheryl McMahon; Vice President Michele Golding; Trustees Ann Finkle, Barbara McCarthy, Colleen Osborn, John Zloty and Colleen Angelhow; Superintendent Gregory J. Woytila

Information Forum

Residents are invited to learn more about the project and ask questions at the community forum.

Wednesday, October 14, 2015
7 p.m., Alumni Student Activity Center
405 Meadow Drive, N. Tonawanda, NY

Vote

Tuesday, October 27, 2015
Noon- 9 p.m.
Alumni Student Activities Center
405 Meadow Drive, N. Tonawanda, NY
Voter identification is required

Stay Informed!

For more information on the project,
Visit our website: www.ntschoools.org

Like us on facebook:
[Facebook.com/NTCitySchools](https://www.facebook.com/NTCitySchools)

Follow us on Twitter: @NTCitySchools

Meadow Elementary School

(Future Meadow Middle School for Grades 7-8)

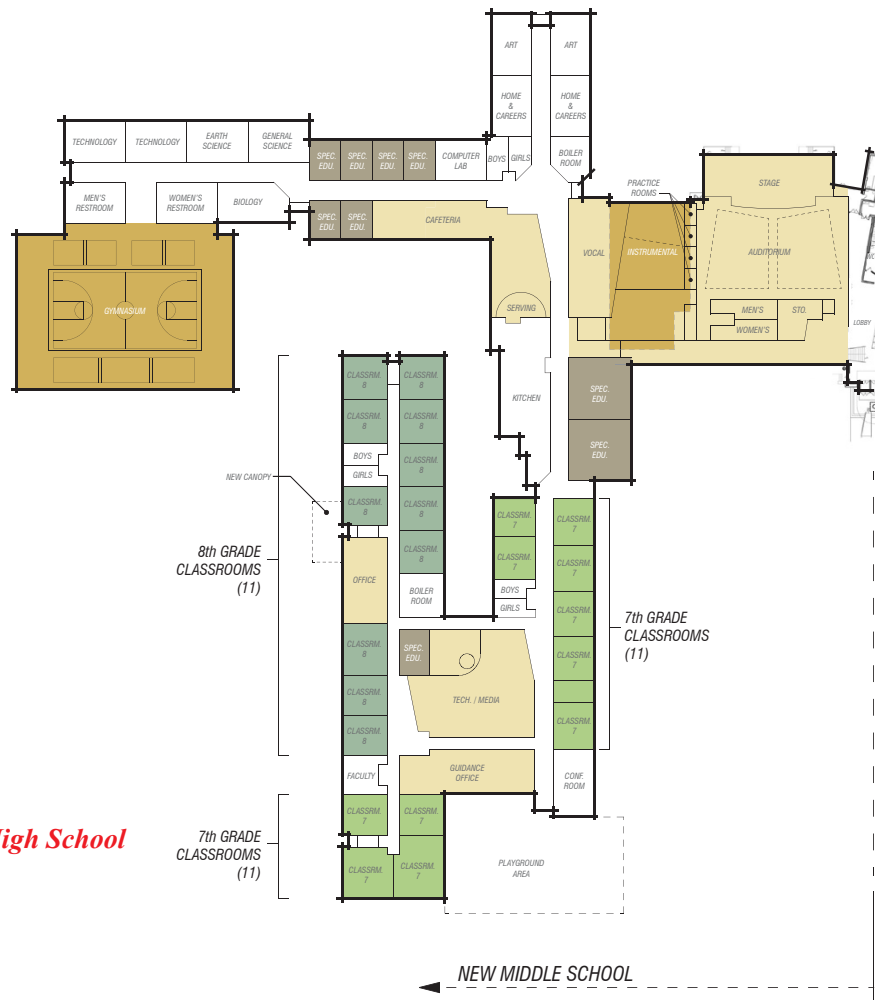
\$15,700,000

COLOR LEGEND

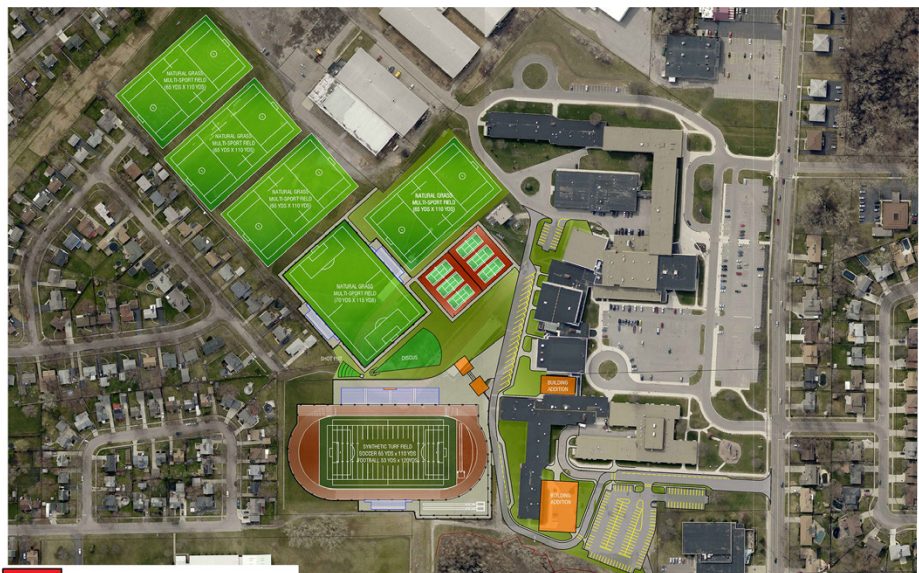
- NEW BUILDING ADDITIONS
- AREAS OF RENOVATION
- CLASSROOMS - 7th Grade
- CLASSROOMS - 8th Grade
- CLASSROOMS - 9th Grade
- CLASSROOMS - 10th Grade
- CLASSROOMS - 11th Grade
- CLASSROOMS - 12th Grade
- SPECIAL EDUCATION ROOMS
- UNASSIGNED CLASSROOM SPACES



North Tonawanda Middle School - High School
 455 Meadow Drive
 North Tonawanda, NY



High School Athletic Complex



North Tonawanda Middle School - High School
 455 Meadow Drive
 North Tonawanda, NY

High School

\$17,150,000



ABELLA Engineering
Architecture
Associates, D.P.C. Environmental
Planning

HIGH SCHOOL

More schematics of second, third floors can be found online.

Scope of Work

High School

\$17,150,000

- Reconfigure space to accommodate a new STEAM-based Technology Academy; convert existing tech room into clean tech room and convert existing dark room into digital media lab
- New locker faces and miscellaneous building repairs
- Roof replacement
- Construct new multi-sport stadium that includes turf, lighting, bleachers, press box, concession stand and ticket booth.
- Construct six new tennis courts
- Construct/reconfigure four natural grass sports fields
- Convert gymnasium to fixed auditorium
- Upgrade kitchen
- Provide additional security cameras
- Reconfigure bus drop off

Meadow Elementary School

\$15,700,000

(Future Meadow Middle School - Grades 7-8)

- Convert the elementary school into a middle school
- Convert existing classrooms into science room, art rooms, tech rooms, home and careers room
- Install lockers in hallways
- Upgrade existing kitchen
- Replace roof
- Construct new gymnasium
- Convert existing gymnasium into a library
- Construct new music suite
- Reconfigure parking to accommodate new additions
- Replace public address system
- Provide additional security cameras

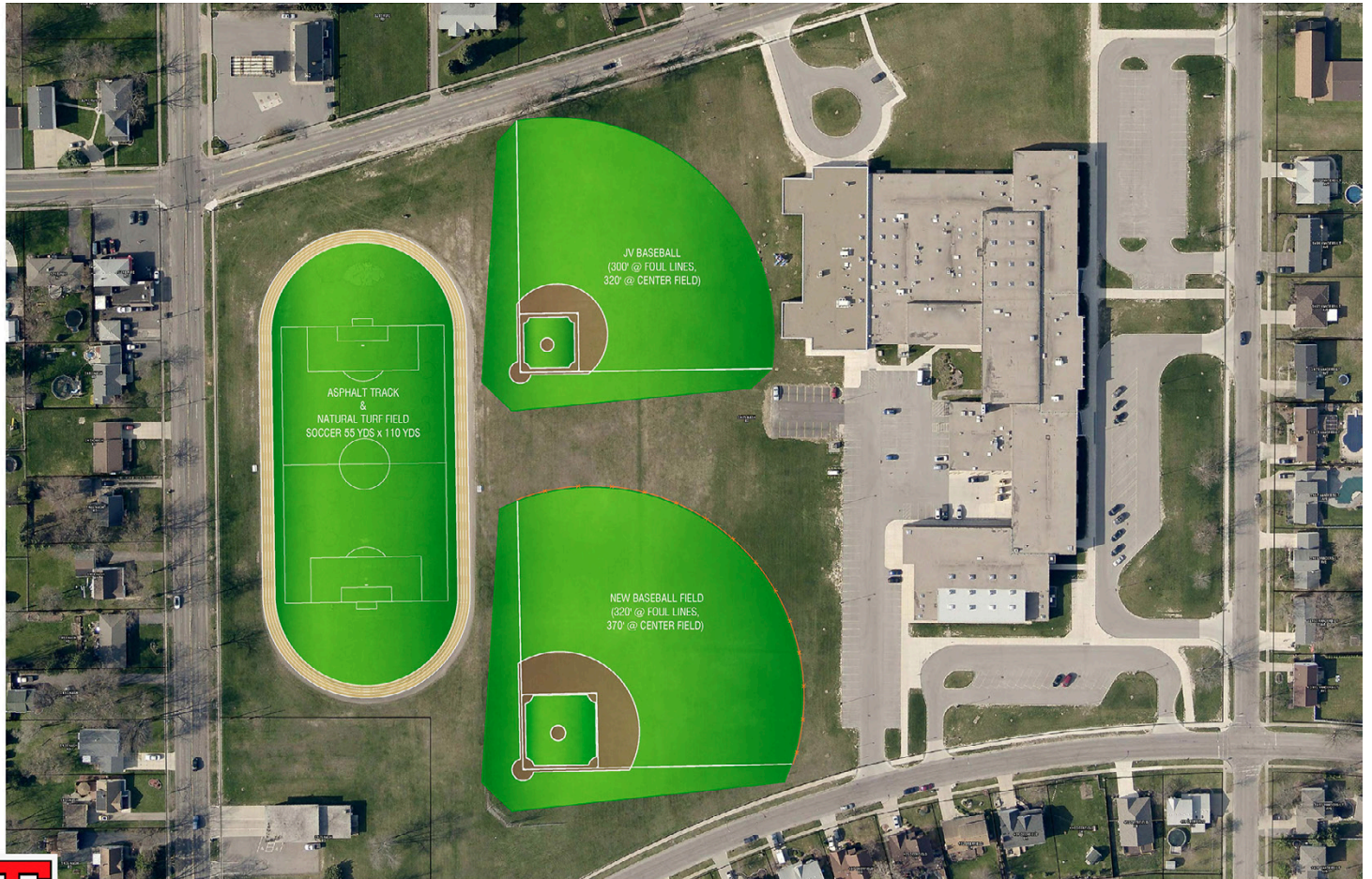


Middle School

(Future Intermediate School - Grades 4-5-6)

\$5,700,000

- Convert the middle school to an intermediate school
- Upgrade kitchen serving line
- Roof replacement
- Provide asphalt track around the existing natural grass field
- Convert existing science, art, tech, home and careers classrooms into special education classrooms
- Provide new varsity baseball field
- Provide new junior varsity baseball field



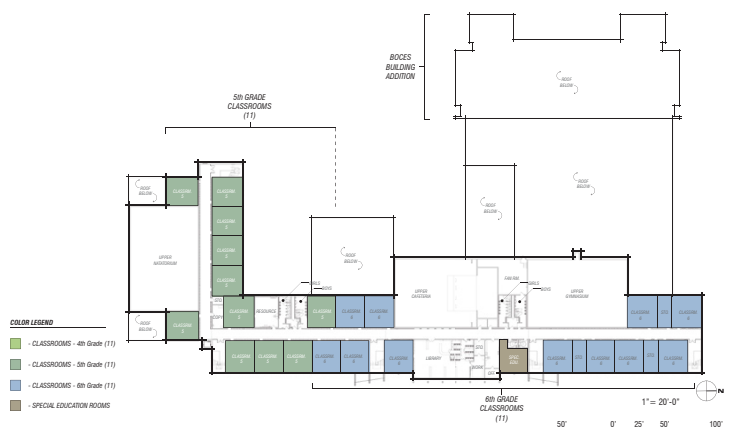
North Tonawanda Middle School
1500 Vanderbilt Ave
North Tonawanda, NY

LABELLA Associates, D.P.C.
Engineering
Architecture
Environmental
Planning



PROGRAMMATIC PLAN - FIRST FLOOR
North Tonawanda City School District
JUNE 2015

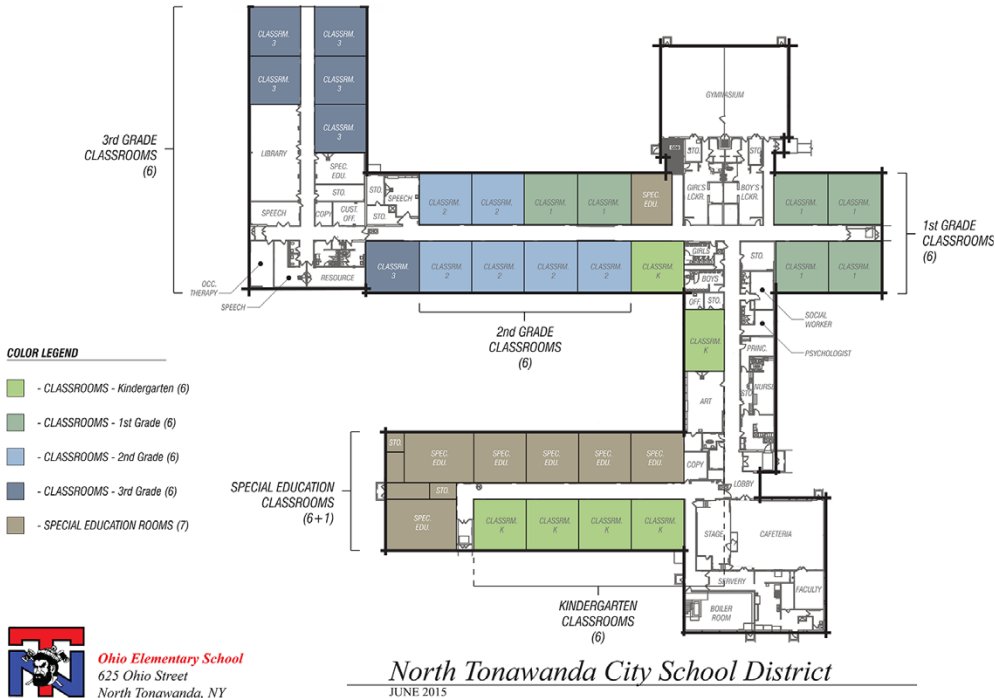
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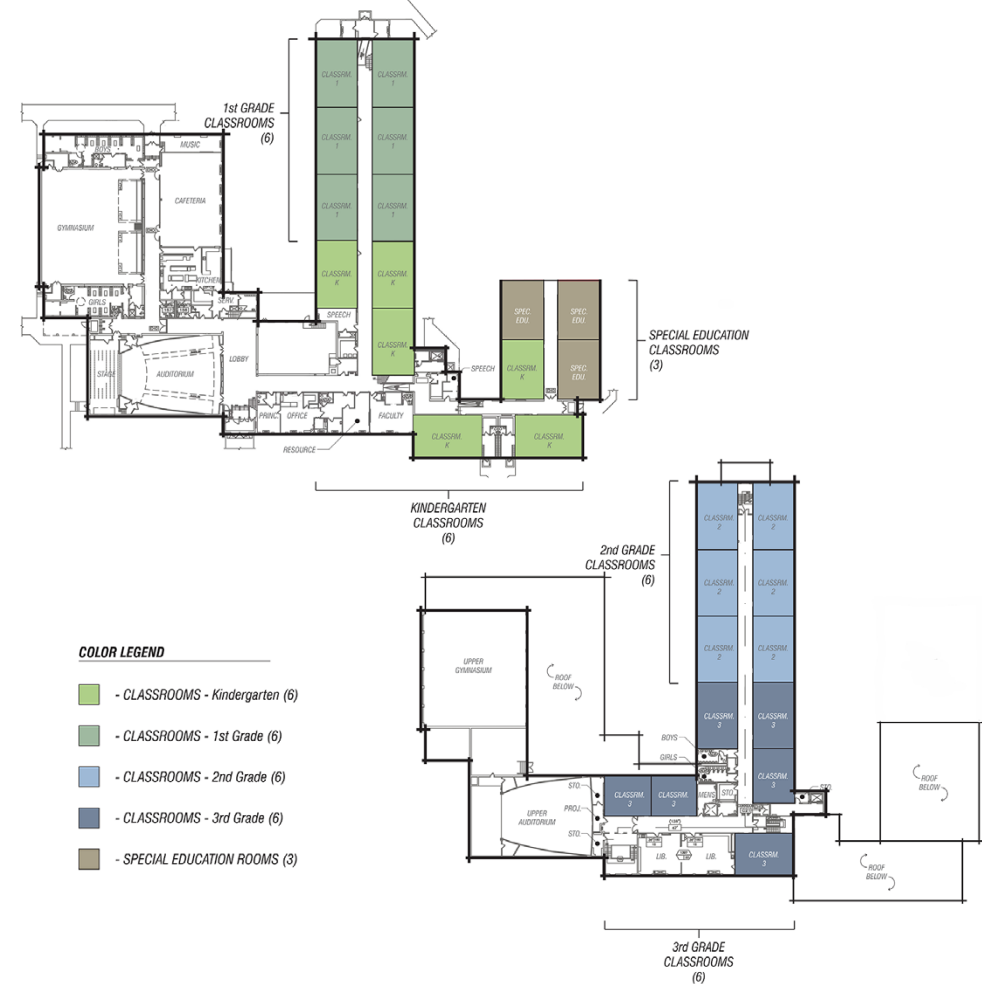
PROGRAMMATIC PLAN - SECOND FLOOR
North Tonawanda City School District
JUNE 2015

LABELLA Associates, D.P.C.
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Planning

Ohio Elementary School



Spruce Elementary School



- ## Ohio Elementary School
- \$800,000
- Replace windows
 - Replace gymnasium lighting
 - Install new public address system
 - Reconfigure parking to accommodate accessible parent drop off
 - Provide new small bus drop off loop
 - Provide additional security cameras



- ## Spruce Elementary School
- \$500,000
- Repair exterior wall at windows
 - Replace exit doors
 - Replace public address system
 - Update stage lighting for a teaching environment
 - Provide additional security cameras



Funding

Capital Reserve Funds:	\$3,374,000
QZAB Bonds:	\$17,688,626
Referendum Bonds:	\$18,787,374
Total Project Cost:	\$39,850,000

The district projects that 98% of the project qualifies for aid from the state. Of this amount, the aid ratio will be 85.6%. Since the QZAB funds are projected to come in at an interest rate at or below 1%, the district will break even on costs when state aid is taken into consideration. Please see the table which reflects how the state and federal QZAB aid and credits help the district pay for this project at no cost to the local taxpayer.

	QZAB Eligible Project	Non-QZAB Project
Total Construction Costs	\$39,850,000	\$39,850,000
Projected Interest Expense		
QZAB Bonds	\$1,693,159	\$0
Projected Interest Expense		
Referendum Bonds	\$2,299,478	\$4,852,883
Total Costs of Bonds	\$43,842,637	\$44,702,883
Projected State Aid	\$40,468,637	\$40,468,637
Capital Reserve Funds	\$3,374,000	\$3,374,000
Total Revenue Sources	\$43,842,637	\$43,842,637
Net Cost to District	\$ 0	\$ 860,246

Project Timelines

Community vote	Oct. 27, 2015
Design development & review	November 2015 - January 2016
NYSED review of project design	February - November 2016
NTCSD review of NYSED Set	May - July 2016
Bid period starts	November 2016
Bids due	December 2016
Award contracts	December 2016
Start construction	Spring 2017
Occupancy	September 2017
Field access	Late Fall 2017
Landscaping / Site / Close Out	Summer 2018

Dates are preliminary and subject to modification.

Athletic Fields Overview

High School/Middle School Athletic Complex

- A new multi-sport stadium will be constructed behind the High School/Middle School complex.
- The existing football field will be resurfaced with turf, new lighting, bleachers, press box, concession stand, and ticket booth.
- Six new tennis courts will be constructed.
- Four natural grass sports fields will be constructed/reconfigured.

Intermediate School

- A new asphalt track will be installed around the existing natural grass field.
- A new varsity baseball field will be built.
- A new junior varsity baseball field will be built.



FAQs

Why is the district doing this project now?

The school district is engaging in a capital project for four primary reasons. First, the district qualifies for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds; second is a number of items that were identified in the Five Year Building Condition Survey need to be addressed in the near future; third this gives us the opportunity to efficiently implement optimal grade level configurations where we can use staff in the most effective manner and offer students better opportunities to maximize their educational experiences; and finally we can enhance our athletic fields for our students and community to use.

What are Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB)?

QZAB is a federal tax credit bond used as a source of financing the rehabilitation of a public school facility's classroom space. In New York State, the project must have voter approval and board authorization, as required, before application can be approved by the Commissioner of Education (Facilities Planning) prior to issuing the QZAB bonds.

We just finished a large project, why now?

The special financing offered through the federal government requires approval by the voters and New York State by December 2016 or it will be released to another district. The approval in NY could take as long as twelve months after public approval. We received notification of the award of this funding in late Spring 2015 and that is why we are bringing this to the voters at this time.

Will taxes increase to pay for this project?

NO! with the aid from the state, use of a previously approved Capitol Building Project Reserve along with the credits through the federal QZAB program the net cost to the district will be zero.

Is building aid jeopardized with QZAB funding?

No. Building Aid is paid on the approved eligible cost of the project.

If this same project was presented to the district voters without the QZAB bonds, how much would local taxpayers have to pay?

It is projected that the local share for this project without the QZAB bonds would be approximately \$860,000. Refer to table on page 6.

What are the requirements to apply for QZAB funds?

A school district must have an approved capital project. The district must also have 35 percent or more of their students who qualify for free and reduced lunches. The school district must have private entities willing to contribute a net present value equal to 10% of the QZAB amount to the district. **North Tonawanda City Schools has a commitment from Apple as a partner on the new Technology Academy at the high school.** The final requirement is the purchaser must be willing to buy the bonds and accept (and have a use for) tax credits from the federal government in lieu of normal interest payments.

What are the requirements for the new academy?

The academy program must be designed in cooperation with private businesses ('10% match partner') to enhance the academic curriculum, increase graduation and employment rates and prepare students for college and the workforce. The academy must be located in the building(s) in which the QZAB capital project proceeds are being spent. The education plan ('academy') must be approved by the District's Board of Education prior to issuance of the QZABs. The district can accept multiple match partners.

What is considered in the 10% match partner?

Qualified contributions by private entities consists of equipment, including state of the art technology and vocational equipment, for use in the academy; technical assistance in developing curriculum or in training teachers to promote appropriate market-driven technology in the classroom; services of employees as volunteer mentors; internships, field trips or other educational opportunities outside the academy; or any other property or service specified by the local education agency.

What happens if voters reject the capital project?

1. The district can put it to a second vote but many of the incentives have timelines attached and the cost to the taxpayers would go up.
2. Every district must do a Five Year Building Survey which identifies needs of the facilities district-wide. If the project is rejected, parts of these costs will be funded through the general fund where no building aid will come from the state. Therefore the local taxpayer will pay for the total cost for those items that need to be addressed during the next five years.

When will the project start and will instruction be impacted?

Construction is estimated to start in Spring 2017 with completion in the summer of 2018. Classroom instruction is our priority and construction projects will be done either when students are not in school or in areas that students will not have access.

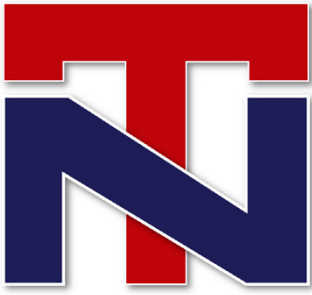
What happens with Drake Elementary?

Drake would remain a K-3 building and improvements would be made in technology over the next three years. Student enrollment, not project work, dictates the numbers of classrooms and buildings needed in a district.



North Tonawanda Middle School - High School
435 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY

STADIUM ENTRANCE
LABELIA
Architectural
Engineering
Structural
Mechanical
Electrical
Plumbing



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOLS

176 Walck Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Board of Education

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Michele Golding, Vice President
Colleen Angelhow
Ann Finkle
Barbara McCarthy
Colleen Osborn
John Zloty

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

www.ntschoools.org

Community Vote

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 • Noon- 9 p.m.
Alumni Student Activities Center
405 Meadow Drive, N. Tonawanda, NY
Voter identification is required

Community Forum

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 • 7 p.m.
Alumni Student Activity Center
405 Meadow Drive, N. Tonawanda, NY

Stay Informed!

Community groups who are interested in a presentation, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 807-3500.

For more information on the project:

Visit our website: www.ntschoools.org

Like us on facebook: [Facebook.com/NTCitySchools](https://www.facebook.com/NTCitySchools)

Follow us on Twitter: @NTCitySchools

A person wishing to vote must show identification and be: a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age and a district resident for 30 days prior to vote. Absentee ballots are available. Voters may request absentee ballots by writing to the attn: District Clerk, North Tonawanda City School District, 176 Walck Road, N. Tonawanda, NY, or calling 807-3514 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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455 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY

MUSIC SUITE - 1
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