



2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As of 2/7/2023



Q. Why is the District proposing a capital project now?

A. Medina Central School District is committed to exercising care and good judgment in managing the community resources with which we are entrusted. We need to continue to take care of our schools, an important asset the community owns. Just as one's home ages and needs upkeep and repairs to keep it in good shape, so do our schools. The District is addressing its highest-priority facilities issues now, rather than delaying and facing future higher costs and further deterioration.

Q. How was the proposed capital project developed?

A. Over the past several years, the District administration and Board of Education have been developing a long-range facilities plan to assess current and future capital improvement needs and the means to responsibly achieve them. During this process, critical safety upgrades and building preservation needs were identified and prioritized, as were opportunities to enrich our students through academic program enhancements. To evaluate conditions at all facilities, the District utilized its Building Condition Survey (BCS), which is mandated by the State to be conducted every five years, and considered work completed in previous projects.

Q. What needs does the project address?

A. The proposed project focuses on three key areas: building preservation needs, health and safety upgrades, and academic program enhancements. In addition to the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and structural priorities identified in the Building Condition Survey (BCS), the project will also address important safety and security improvements at all school entrance vestibules and main offices. Rehabilitation and reconstruction of our intercampus roadways, parking areas and bus loops will further improve safety and circulation for parents, students, and staff. Key educational program goals of this project include renovations to our music, technology, and STEAM spaces to prepare our students for successful futures.

Q. When will the work take place?

A. It's expected that State Education Department's approval for the project would be received in early 2024 with the bulk of work starting that summer. It is anticipated that the project would be completed in early 2026.

Q. What is the total cost of this proposed project and how can it have NO TAX IMPACT?

A. The total cost of the project is \$34,357,277. The project will be paid for using a combination of available State Building Aid and funds from the District's Capital Reserve, which is designated to be used specifically for capital improvements. The remaining portion of the local share will be fully offset by retiring debt service payments, resulting in a "tax neutral" financing plan.

Q. Why was the cost of this work not included in the District's annual budget?

A. Routine facility maintenance and repair work is typically funded within the annual District budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. However, large renovations, reconstruction, and replacement of "end of useful life" items, such as those included in this project, would have a major impact on the tax rate if included in the annual District budget. A capital project is the fiscally responsible alternative because the State reimburses a vast majority of the cost, and expenses are spread out over a longer period of time.

Q. Isn't State Aid just my tax dollars too?

A. Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature has given all Districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars to enhance their communities through school building improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to keep some of those tax dollars in our own community, working to improve the educational setting for our children and the public.

Q. What if the referendum does not pass?

A. The critical safety requirements and building preservation needs would still be absolutely necessary. If the referendum does not pass, these requirements would still need to be addressed. A capital project allows the District to receive partial reimbursement of the project's cost through State Building Aid. Without the State's aid, the funds for any required work would have to come from the annual budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost.

Q. Where can I find out more about the capital project proposal?

A. Additional information resources are available on the District website at www.medinacsd.org.

Q. Does the District lose parking spots at Wise while making the bus drop off / pick up area?

A. No. While the spots in the current location will be used for bus traffic during the day, an additional parking lot in front of Wise will have more spots than are eliminated in the current lot. Additionally, when school is not in session, the bus loop will also be used for parking for events near the track.

Q. Where is the parent drop off/pick up going to be at the JSHS?

A. Currently, the plan is to keep the drop off in its current location, near the music and agriculture wing of the building.

Q. What will the traffic pattern through campus look like during arrival and dismissal?

A. Traffic will generally flow from Oak Orchard Elementary School toward the Jr/Sr High School. Wise Intermediate School and the Jr/Sr High School will share a bus arrival/dismissal location. This shared efficiency will eliminate approximately 15 minutes of student time on the bus at dismissal. Parent drop off and pick up locations will be located outside of the bus arrival and dismissal locations to eliminate congestion and traffic conflicts. Parking lot expansion at the Intermediate School will offset parking lost during the day for the shared bus arrival/dismissal location. Traffic patterns will be implemented to limit disruption to all adjacent roadways as much as possible.

Q. Is the cafeteria serving line at Oak Orchard being addressed?

A. Yes. This will be replaced from a grant that was completed outside of this capital project.

Q. How long will the swimming pool be closed?

A. The plan is for the pool to be closed from March 2025 through October 2025. Once we have approval at the state level and the project is bid we anticipate a minimum of 6 months of construction within the space.

Q. Did we consider a salt water system for the pool?

A. Yes. The current trend in the K-12 pool market is to install an updated chemical balancing system that still uses chlorine. The salt water system, while popular in home pools, is not as effective in the commercial pool market and brings with it some challenges. Most importantly the chloramines in the air (which you can smell) will be removed at the water level through the use of a mechanical pool air evacuator system. This will provide a notable improvement to the air quality within the pool space.

Q. How do we vet the bidders on construction projects?

A. All contractors are required to be eligible to bid through the NYSDOL and can not appear on their ineligible list. Being a public works job, all contractors are required to pay prevailing rate as established by the NYSDOL. All contractors are required to be bonded and insured. If a contractor becomes unable to complete their contract at any time, the bonding company is required to complete the work under contract. Each contractor is required to carry multiple types of insurance to protect the district during construction. Only contractors who are in good standing can generally qualify for the required bonding and insurance limits established in the contract. Once bids are received the contractors are vetted out by the district's construction manager and architect to ensure complete coverage of the bid documents.

Q. Did the District plan for inflation causing higher prices?

A. Yes. The project does carry a significant percentage for escalation which takes into account both the current and anticipated market conditions. While the markets will fluctuate, we have anticipated an increase in construction costs throughout the duration of the project.