

The Highland Falls Fort Montgomery Central School District



**2023 Proposed Capital Project
Referendum Vote
March 28, 2023**



Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Overview of the proposed capital project
- Questions and answers
- Tour of some of the areas at FMES





Scope of the Work

Fort Montgomery Elementary School

The list of work at the FMES is fairly extensive:

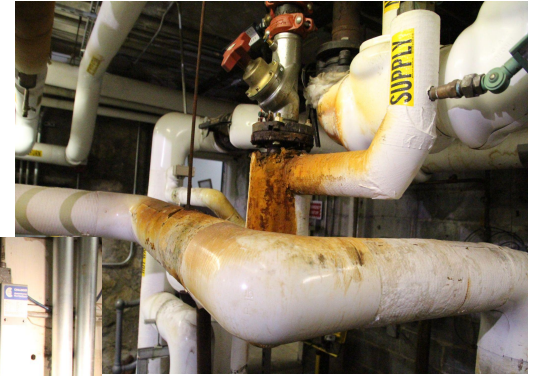
- Replacing all older electrical panels
- Replacing hot water pumps, air separator, and accessories
- Replacing the entire HVAC System, adding AC and updating the Building Management System (BMS)
- Upgrading a number of toilet rooms
- Adding a new elevator, as well as a ramp inside the building for accessibility
- Creating a new secure office and entryway
- Providing ADA access to the building at the front entrance
- Providing additional parking (18-20 spots) to ease parking congestion
- Repaving of the existing parking lot and bus loop
- Upgrades to the electrical system
- Construction of a new multipurpose room (Gymnasium/Cafeteria) with a warming kitchen
- Renovation of existing gym into learning spaces for Art/Music and a Library Media Center
- Renovation of existing kitchen and storage into a new Nurse's office





Fort Montgomery Elementary School

A picture is worth a thousand words!





Scope of the Work

Highland Falls Intermediate School

James I. O'Neill High School

HFIS

- Replacement of the entire heating system, including new BMS, new boilers and adding air conditioning throughout the building
- **Replacement** of the roof of the building
- Reconstruction of the main parking lot, including the replacement of the drainage system.



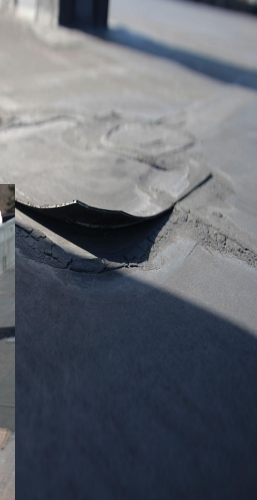
JIO

- Replacement of the heating system, including new BMS, new boilers, and adding air conditioning throughout the building
- **Replacement** of the roof of the building
- Upgrades to the electrical system
- Renovation of the kitchen including new equipment and upgrades to the plumbing system.



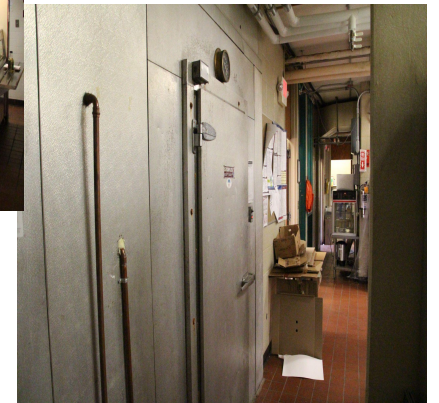


Highland Falls Intermediate School





James I. O'Neill High School





Project Cost

- The goal of the Facilities Committee has been to present a financial picture for this project to the Board which would maximize available reserves as well as state aid and which would not lead to an increase in the tax levy.
- To pay for this, the District would appropriate \$8.81 million from the capital reserve.
- State Building Aid would also help pay for this work. The District currently has an aid ratio of 82.9%, which means that for every \$100 of aidable work, the District would receive back \$82.90.
- The rest of the cost of the project will be paid with “old debt payments.” Currently, the District has a debt payment of \$850,579. Approximately \$755.287 of that debt will be retired at the end of of the 2023-2024 school year. That money, **which is already in the budget**, will be applied to the cost of this project.
- **THIS PROJECT, AS PRESENTED AND STRUCTURED, WILL NOT LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES.**





Where we are...

On January 19, the Board adopted a SEQRA resolution for this proposed action.

- *Under Section 617.5 of the SEQRA Regulations, subdivision 10, if the Project includes the addition, it would still be a Type II Activity because it is a small addition – “routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings;”*

On January 19, the Board approved a proposed capital project which would need to be approved by the voters of the District.

From January 19th through March 28th, the District will provide information to the community regarding this project. We will share this information on our website and through BlackBoard Connect and ClassDojo.





Voting Information

- The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Highland Falls Intermediate School (52 Mountain Avenue, Highland Falls.)
- Eligible voters must be a U.S. citizen, registered to vote, at least 18 years old and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- District residents who are registered to vote in a general election or who have voted on the school budget in the last four years are automatically registered to vote. Others can register to vote on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the office of the district clerk, Dawn Lent, at 21 Morgan Road, Highland Falls. Proof of residency is required.
- To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Contact the district office at (845) 446-9575 to obtain one. If you want your ballot mailed to you, your application must be returned no more than (30) days and at least (7) days prior to the vote on March 28. If you plan to pick up your ballot from the office, your application must be received by March 27. All absentee ballots must be returned to the district office by 5 p.m., March 28.



Voting Information



Capital Project
VOTE

Tues., March 28
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.



To learn more, attend an information session
or email capitalproject2023@hffmcsd.org.



Next Steps and Timing

If the referendum is successful...

Sometime in late fall or early winter of 2023, we should have approval of the plans and the project from SED. The team will then assemble bid documents for the project. As required under the Wick's Law, the project will be broken into four separate parts and therefore will award four separate contracts, These include, General Construction, Plumbing, Electrical, and HVAC. Because of the anticipated scope of the project, a fifth contract, for Site Work, will be needed, as well.

If all goes according to plan, the window for the contract bidding will be such that the Board will be able to award contracts in January or February of 2024. Immediately following, the contractors will begin planning for their pieces of the work.

Work will commence in the summer of 2024 and will continue through the fall of 2025 with substantial completion and closeout being in the fall and the Final Cost Reports being submitted by the end of December.





What if???

If the referendum is not successful...

- If the capital project is not approved, issues that the district has been experiencing within all of the buildings will continue.
 - A number of these have potential to disrupt the educational process.
 - We had a situation last year with the electrical system at the FMES and a number of close calls relating to heat this year.
- The district must eventually address these issues as more costly emergency situations and/or to propose another capital project at a later date. As time goes on, the cost of maintaining failing systems will continue to rise. Any work that will need to be done will be done at higher cost. In addition, as this project is being timed to debt falling off, **work done outside of a project will**, in all likelihood, **add to the District's debt** and without offsetting retiring debt, will lead to an increase in the tax levy.
- A defeated capital project would also mean that visitors at the elementary school may struggle with inaccessible access to our building, bathrooms and classes. Additionally, elementary students would miss out on opportunities that are possible through enhancements to the gym and cafeteria.





Our Vision for FMES

Conceptual Renderings





Our Vision for FMES

New Gym/Cafeteria





Our Vision for FMES

Renovated Classrooms / Art & Band Rooms





Recap



HIGHLAND FALLS - FORT MONTGOMERY CSD PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT



FORT MONTGOMERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



HIGHLAND FALLS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



JAMES I. O'NEILL HIGH SCHOOL



JAMES I. O'NEILL HIGH SCHOOL
ROOF & HVAC REPLACEMENT



HIGHLAND FALLS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
ROOF & HVAC REPLACEMENT



VOTE: MARCH 28

POLLING LOCATION:
Highland Falls Intermediate School,
6AM - 9 PM



Recap



FORT MONTGOMERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OVERCROWDING,
ACCESSIBILITY,
HVAC & SITE UPGRADES
ARE NEEDED

PROPOSED RENDERING OF GYM/CAFETERIA ADDITION -
LOOKING FROM UPPER LOT TOWARDS ROUTE 9

NEW ADDITION TO HOUSE MULTI-PURPOSE GYM /
CAFETERIA & WARMING KITCHEN WITH ACCESS FROM
UPPER PARKING LOT

RENOVATE EXISTING SPACE INTO ART/BAND
ROOM, ADDITIONAL LEARNING SPACE, &
MODERN LIBRARY

\$44.4M BOND REFERENDUM



NO ADDITIONAL PROJECTED TAX IMPACT!



Questions & Comments?



Capital Project
VOTE

Learn more about
the HFFM capital
project here

