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**The skilled trades program** is poised to expand into new classroom space through the capital project.



# Patriot Press

## Special Capital Project Edition

News from the **BROADALBIN-PERTH** Central School District ★ March 2024

### Capital project highlight: skilled trades program

Members of the Broadalbin-Perth community have been proud of how their school district has prepared students for the real world. In recent years, B-P has added programs such as personal finance and the school-within-a-school Patriot Academy in response to community feedback requesting programs that will better prepare students for life after graduation.

Broadalbin-Perth's skilled trades program was introduced in 2021, with a focus on helping students develop practical skills that will help them as future homeowners and allow them to explore opportunities in highly paid, in-demand career fields. The skilled trades program focuses on teaching students skills such as using power tools, plumbing, residential wiring, woodworking, and more. The program was developed and is led by technology teacher Nicole Battisti.

"I think it's important to show students the great opportunities there are in the skilled trades," Battisti said.

See "Construction..." on page 4

## Building for the future

### Residents to vote on capital project proposal May 21

Qualified voters of the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District will vote on a proposed \$37.8 million capital project, Tuesday, May 21. If approved by voters, the project would address health and safety concerns and infrastructure needs; expand classroom space for the district's construction and skilled trades program; and renovate and improve existing learning spaces.

District officials are projecting that state building aid would pay for approximately 81.3% of the project and the remaining 18.7% percent would be the local share. Part of the local share would be paid using \$500,000 in existing capital reserve funds. Much of the remaining local share would be paid by property taxes already being levied for debt that will be retiring during the 2026-27 school year. A taxpayer with a home with a full market value of \$100,000 and no tax exemptions (such as STAR) could expect to see a one-time tax increase of no more than \$33 on their September 2026 tax bills. See page 2 for details.

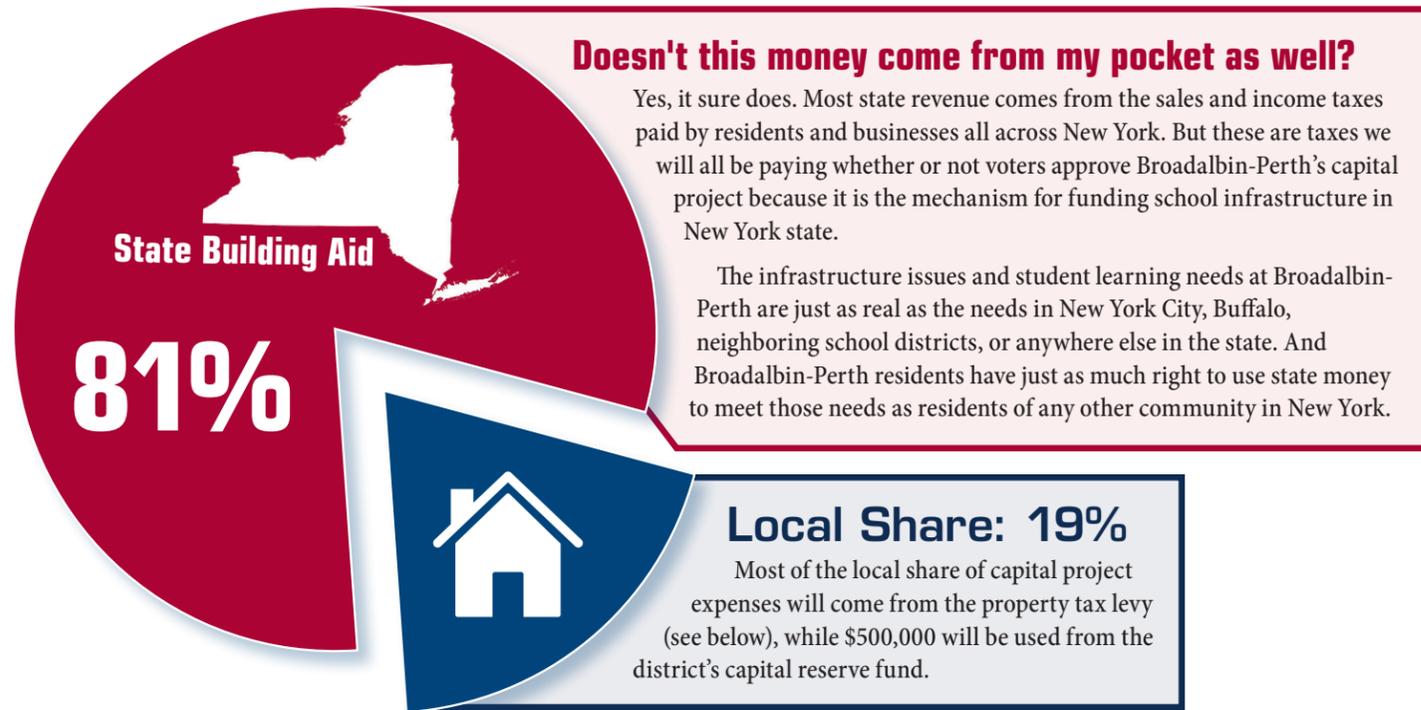
Broadalbin-Perth district leaders began developing the capital project proposal in 2021, working with its architecture firm to conduct a state-mandated building conditions survey (BCS), which identified many of the items included in the proposed capital project as being in need of attention. Faculty and staff weighed in about district needs during scheduled building-wide meetings, and the district provided opportunities for community members to participate in the planning process during Board of Education meetings and capital project workshops.

Detailed information about work that would be completed through the proposed capital project begins on page 3.

The proposed capital project includes expanded classroom space for B-P's construction and skilled trades program.



# Where would the money for the capital project come from?



## Doesn't this money come from my pocket as well?

Yes, it sure does. Most state revenue comes from the sales and income taxes paid by residents and businesses all across New York. But these are taxes we will all be paying whether or not voters approve Broadalbin-Perth's capital project because it is the mechanism for funding school infrastructure in New York state.

The infrastructure issues and student learning needs at Broadalbin-Perth are just as real as the needs in New York City, Buffalo, neighboring school districts, or anywhere else in the state. And Broadalbin-Perth residents have just as much right to use state money to meet those needs as residents of any other community in New York.

## Local Share: 19%

Most of the local share of capital project expenses will come from the property tax levy (see below), while \$500,000 will be used from the district's capital reserve fund.

## Q A How would the proposed capital project affect my taxes?

If the proposed \$37.8 million capital project is approved by voters on May 21, New York state building aid would pay for approximately 81.3% of the project and the remaining 18.7% would come from the district (also called the "local share").

During the 2026-27 school year, Broadalbin-Perth will see the net result of paying off the bond associated with the 2013 EXCEL project. The district currently pays approximately \$375,000 to service the debt associated with this project. The 2026-27 school year is also the year B-P would begin making payments on the proposed 2024 capital project. Therefore, the district would apply the annual \$375,000 debt service payment no longer needed for the 2013 project toward the local share of the proposed 2024 capital project.

The district currently has \$500,000 in its capital reserve fund, which B-P would apply to the local share during the first year of project payments, 2026-27. The remaining portion of the local share of the capital project would be divided among district property owners. The district's financial advisors estimate that the owner of a property with a full-market value of \$100,000 could see an increase of no more than \$33 on their September 2026 tax bill. Residents who receive basic or enhanced STAR exemptions or credits would see smaller maximum tax increases in 2026. **There would be no additional tax increases related to the project.**

	Maximum tax increase for a home with full-market value of...		
	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
<b>No STAR</b>	<b>\$33</b>	<b>\$66</b>	<b>\$99</b>
<b>Basic STAR</b>	<b>\$23</b>	<b>\$56</b>	<b>\$89</b>
<b>Enhanced STAR</b>	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$39</b>	<b>\$72</b>

Note: Tax increase would be reflected in September 2026 tax bills.

## Q A What if bids for this project come in higher than projected costs?

As with any capital project or annual budget proposal that voters approve, the Board of Education can only spend up to the specific amount approved by voters. If bids are higher than estimated, the district would scale back the scope of work in the capital project to stay within the authorized amount.

# How would the capital project funds be spent?

Note: All project figures presented in this publication are estimates prepared by the district's construction management firm in collaboration with its architects. Actual costs will be determined by seeking bids from contractors, but in no case can the district exceed the overall dollar amount authorized by the voters.

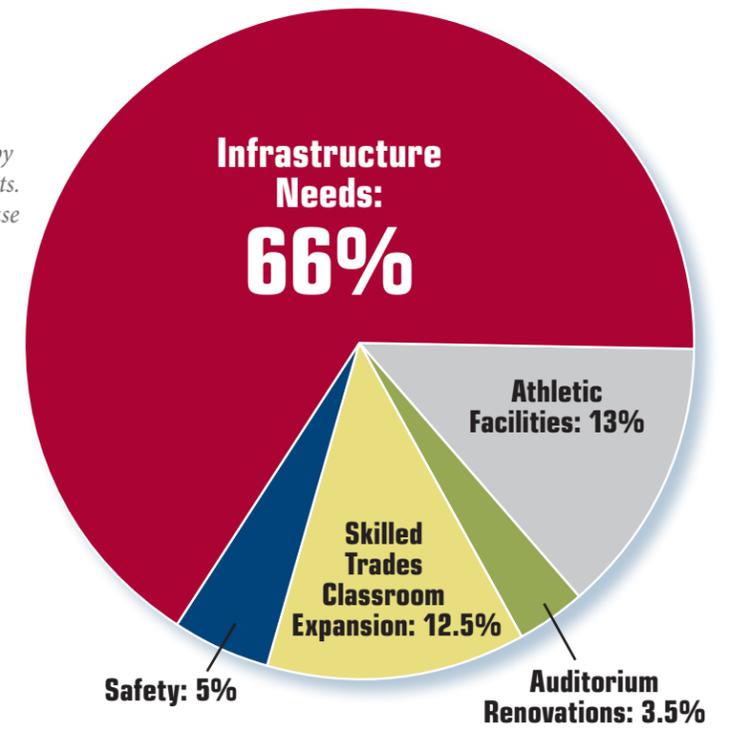
## ▶ PERTH CAMPUS - BPES

Extend sidewalk along County Hwy 107	\$309,400
Add all-weather surfacing at both playgrounds	\$796,800
Repave access road and improve drainage on cemetery (west) side of school	\$330,100
Reconstruct loading dock on west side of school	\$337,500
Reconstruct cafeteria floor deck	\$449,900
Replace identified exterior and interior doors	\$782,400
Replace older windows throughout building	\$2,847,000
Replace identified sections of roofing	\$1,445,100
Replace select ceiling tiles	\$243,700
Refurbish elevators	\$562,600
Improve HVAC systems in main gym, small gym, faculty room, and student services offices	\$1,353,700
Replace fluorescent lighting fixtures with LED	\$337,500
Replace floor in main gymnasium	\$345,000
Improve fire alarm system	\$47,000
Additional interior work	\$84,540
<b>Perth Campus Subtotal</b>	<b>\$10,272,240</b>

## ▶ DISTRICT OFFICE & TRANSPORTATION CENTER

Replace and increase capacity of diesel and gas dispensing tanks	\$937,100
Replace identified doors	\$28,300
Replace windows	\$277,700
Replace identified sections of roofing	\$320,600
Replace fire alarm control panel and other emergency systems	\$65,900
Recommission existing bus wash	\$393,700
<b>District Office &amp; Transportation Center Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,023,300</b>

\* Capitalized interest and DASNY fees are both expenses related to borrowing money to pay for the capital project. During capital construction, school districts take out bond anticipation notes, or BANs, which are short-term loans that accrue capitalized interest. Once construction is completed, school districts take out a bond to pay the final total cost of the project. School districts can shop for the best interest rate on the open bond market or go through DASNY, which offers a bond pool that often has lower interest rates. DASNY charges contract fees for this service.



## ▶ BROADALBIN CAMPUS - BPHS

Extend Bridge Street sidewalk to building entrances	\$468,600
Expand classroom space for construction and skilled trades program	\$4,397,100
Renovate the Margaret Robin Blowers Auditorium	\$1,229,900
Replace identified exterior and interior doors	\$1,570,600
Replace older windows throughout the building	\$4,481,000
Replace identified sections of roofing	\$4,048,000
Replace select ceiling tiles	\$151,900
Refurbish elevator	\$290,600
Replace 1980s mechanical equipment in auxiliary gym, cafeteria, music wing, and auditorium vestibule	\$1,505,100
Replace older fluorescent lighting fixtures with LED	\$674,800
Improve fire alarm system	\$47,000
Add lighting at varsity baseball and softball fields	\$1,499,400
Install artificial turf on infields of baseball and softball fields	\$562,400
Reconstruct the track at Patriot Field	\$2,249,000
<b>Broadalbin Campus Subtotal</b>	<b>\$23,175,400</b>
Capitalized interest and DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of New York) fee estimate*	\$2,400,000
<b>Project Grand Total</b>	<b>\$37,870,940</b>



Sections of roofing at both campuses are out of warranty and past their useful life. Replacing these sections of roofing will prevent costly leaks and preserve the integrity of the building envelope.

**Q** **A** **If we're taking good care of our school buildings, why do we need a capital project?**

Your home gets constant wear and tear, both outdoors from the sun and snow and indoors from your daily activities. Multiply that hundreds of times and you'll have an idea of what happens to Broadalbin-Perth schools, which serve more than 1,700 active students plus faculty, staff, and community members daily.

After 20 years of repeated freezing and thawing, roofing starts to fail. After 40 or more years of constant use, mechanical systems become unreliable, doors and windows no longer fit properly, and even structures built to be used by hundreds of children daily just plain wear out.

**Q** **A** **It seems as though we just completed a capital project. Why do we need another one?**

B-P voters last approved a capital project in 2016. If voters approve the 2024 capital project, work will begin more than nine years after the last project was approved. In New York state, school districts are required to examine facility needs with the help of an architect every five years.

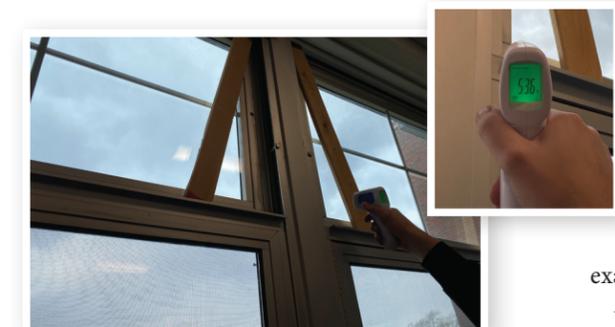
Because of delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the work to be completed in the 2024 capital project is actually overdue. For example, warranties on 20-year-old sections of roofing have expired, and the district has had to spend more in recent years to maintain outdated systems that are due to be replaced. If voters approve the 2024 capital project, district leaders expect maintenance costs to decrease over the coming years.

**Q** **A** **Why does Broadalbin-Perth need a capital project to complete this work?**

Most of the items included in the capital project represent one-time expenditures that would be next to impossible to pay for out of the district's annual operating budget, which residents vote on each May. State lawmakers recognize this and have long offered financial incentives in the form of state building aid for school districts to take care of their facilities through capital projects.

State building aid is only available on work completed as part of a capital project. It is not available for facilities work completed as part of a school district's annual operating budget.

If voters approve the proposed capital project, Broadalbin-Perth's financial advisor expects that approximately 81.3% of all project costs would be paid for by state aid.

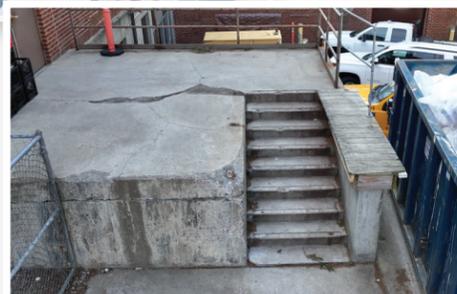


Throughout the district, old windows will be replaced with new ones, improving efficiency of the district's heating and air conditioning systems and improving the comfort of students, staff, and visitors.

Three elevators — two at BPES and one at the junior/senior high school (pictured) — will be refurbished and upgraded to current building codes.



Older wooden doors will be replaced with new hollow metal doors, contributing to security at both schools.



The loading dock at B-P Elementary School is used daily for deliveries of food to the kitchen and for removal of trash from the building.



Shock-absorbing materials, like the kind that would be installed at the BPES playgrounds, have been shown to be most effective at preventing serious injury in children.



**Q** **A** **Why install an artificial surface at the playgrounds?**

At both elementary school playgrounds, a layer of wood chips underlays the play structures. If voters approve the proposed capital project, the district would install new all-weather surfacing at both elementary school playgrounds, giving children a softer landing when jumping or falling during play. The material to be used, XGrass Playground Turf, would be underlaid by foam padding and antimicrobial infill. As this is not the same product used on athletic fields, there are no small particles or pellets. The artificial surface would help keep the playgrounds clean with less maintenance, and extend the use of the playgrounds into the winter months.



Engineers' renderings of the elementary playgrounds show what they would look like after the new artificial surface is installed.



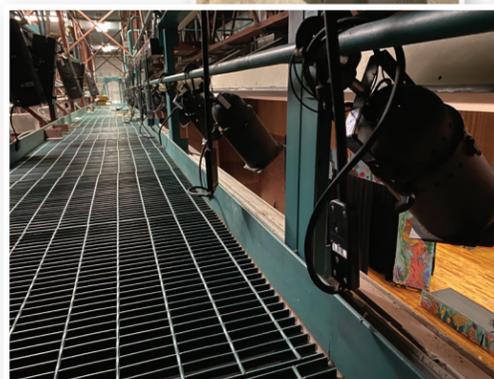
**Q** **A** **Why are renovations to the auditorium included in the capital project proposal?**

The Margaret Robin Blowers Auditorium at B-P Jr./Sr. High School was constructed in 1995, and very little has changed in the space since then. Carpets are worn, seats are broken, and spotlights are so old that replacement parts are no longer available for them. The auditorium, which is the largest gathering space in the district, is used regularly for concerts, plays, and other productions, as well as meetings of students, faculty, staff, and the community.

If residents approve the proposed capital project, the auditorium would be renovated with new seating, new carpeting in the aisles, and new aisle lighting, both in the main seating area and the balcony. The acoustic wall panels would be replaced, and theatrical lighting would be upgraded to LED.

Theatrical lights, which hang from a catwalk above the main seating area and from mounts on the side walls, have not been upgraded since the auditorium was built in 1995. Broken lights are stored and salvaged for parts, since replacement parts are expensive and difficult to source.

Many of the 30-year-old auditorium seats have stained upholstery, missing armrests, or broken springs.



# Construction and skilled trades program offers hands-on approach to learning and community connections

Continued from page 1

“Even if they choose to not pursue a career in construction or the skilled trades, they are going to learn how to be self-reliant homeowners.”

## Coursework leading directly to careers

Since its inception, the courses offered through the program have been popular among students at Broadalbin-Perth Jr./Sr. High School, as they allow students to learn how things work and develop important skills that they will take with them beyond school, and possibly into the workforce.

BPHS College and Career Counselor Charla Simonson has seen firsthand the benefits of the construction and skilled trades program at B-P. She has even seen an increased interest in the trades as a career option, which she credits to the program.

“The construction and skilled trades program has provided opportunities for students to get hands-on experiences,” Simonson said. “I have seen students who may not have enjoyed school get excited about learning. I have seen students show off their completed projects with pride. From a school counselor perspective, the speakers and field trips expose students to careers with first-hand knowledge.”

At BPHS, the program starts in ninth grade, with students learning machine safety, woodworking, residential wiring, plumbing, drafting, and construction. Older students are able to build on those skills with advanced courses. This course progression allows students to learn about construction and skilled trades before they are even eligible to attend career and technical education programs at Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery (HFM) BOCES starting in 11th grade.

Students taking construction and skilled trades courses have the advantage of learning from Battisti, who has plenty of real-life experience to share with them. Battisti has been a teacher for eight years, three of which have been at B-P. Before she began teaching, she worked on both sides of the construction industry: on the design side at an engineering firm and in the field for a contractor. Having grown up around the construction industry and having completed renovations on her own home, her experiences have proven to be beneficial in working with her students in the classroom.

Battisti is proud of the construction and skilled trades program at B-P, as it is one that prepares students while also meeting the needs of the community.

“The B-P community has a high number of great construction and skilled trades industries, and those industries, like in most communities, are hurting for workers,” Battisti said. “With the completion of this program, students will be prepared to enter the workforce. Or, if they want to continue their education at a trades school or college, they will be ahead of the game. There are a lot of high-paying careers in construction and the skilled trades.”

## Planned program expansion to extend opportunities

In an effort to grow the curriculum for the construction and skilled trades program and include more classes, Broadalbin-Perth plans to expand the program’s classroom space as part of the proposed capital project residents will vote on May 21. The expansion of the workspace would allow Battisti to add other focus areas to the

curriculum, while also adding the option for additional construction and skilled trades classes in the future. The expansion would allow for more classroom space, an outdoor workspace, and an additional technology teacher.

“We have a large number of students interested in taking courses in the construction and skilled trades program, but our current space limits the number of students we can accommodate,” Battisti said. “Expanding the space and being able to add a new technology teacher will allow us to be able to provide more opportunities for students.”

The proposed capital project plans call for expanding and dividing the workspace into two shop areas, with one area as a dedicated woodshop and the other as a trades shop.

The current classroom configuration limits the space to having both of these shop areas in one room, which can place restraints on what Battisti and her students can do. Dividing and expanding the classroom would allow the district to offer a larger number and variety of classes. Some classes Battisti hopes to add include advanced woodworking courses, from fine woodworking to furniture and cabinet making. Additionally, students would be able to take more advanced construction and skilled trades courses and build upon the skills they learned in residential wiring, plumbing, and construction while adding on skills such as welding, metalworking, and finished carpentry.

See “Confident future homeowners...” on page 8



▲ Technology teacher Nicole Battisti adjusts a pipe while a student works under a sink in the district’s plumbing and residential wiring lab. Through the capital project, B-P will be able to provide more hands-on learning opportunities for students studying the skilled trades.



## Expanded Construction & Skilled Trades Classroom Space

An architect’s rendering shows the existing technology classroom (far right), as well as proposed classroom space in the west wing at B-P Junior High School. Above, a rendering shows the interior of a new skilled trades classroom.

Creating additional classroom space for the district’s construction and skilled trades program would allow B-P to offer more advanced coursework and give students the opportunity to complete a greater variety of projects.

If voters approve the proposed capital project, the district would renovate the identified classrooms to accommodate the expanded construction and skilled trades program. Programs currently occupying those rooms would be moved to another part of the building.



▲ Students enrolled in construction and skilled trades courses at BPHS learn a variety of practical skills, including woodworking, plumbing, and residential wiring.

## Confident future homeowners, home-grown workforce emerging from skilled trades program

*Continued from page 7*

The capital project also aims to add an outdoor workspace, accessible directly from the classroom. This would allow students to complete a more diverse selection of projects within the construction and skilled trades program. Initial plans for the space include a senior year capstone project, which would allow students to combine everything they have learned and work as a team to build a 150-200 square foot tiny home. Proceeds from the sale of the tiny home would be reinvested in the construction and skilled trades program and be used to purchase materials for the next year's projects.

### Making connections in the community

Community is at the heart of the construction and skilled trades classes, and Battisti is glad to be able to give back in some way.

"This program aims to support the school and community by helping out with projects as a way to give back," Battisti said. "That could be needed storage, assisting programs and clubs, or building items for the community."

Thanks to the support of the B-P community, students have been able to see how the skills they are learning can be used outside of the classroom in life after high school. Many members of the community have visited the school to talk to students about career options. Some community members even work on projects with the students.

"A big part of our program is getting the community involved and exposing students to what is out there," Battisti said. "We have many construction and skilled trades industries come in to talk and sometimes even work with the students. We have also gone to visit their shops and sites. Students are able to learn from real

professionals and develop that network if they ever want to seek future employment."

Students are quick to offer praise for these experiences, the construction and skilled trades program, and Battisti's hands-on approach.

"The one thing that really intrigues me the most is the hands-on work that we're involved with," BPHS sophomore John Morey said. "This helps me focus and work a lot better than I am with paper and pen."

Freshman Ben Faboski agrees with his classmate on the value of the construction and skilled trades classes. He plans to go into a trades program after high school and appreciates what he has learned so far in his classes.

"I think it's very valuable and that everyone should know basic trades," Faboski said. "This will help them know how to fix things in their own home."

"This class benefits for later on in life," Morey added.

Battisti credits the people of the Broadalbin-Perth school district and community for the success of the program and is hopeful the program can continue to grow and support the district, students, and community.

"The greatest part of working for B-P is the amazing support from the community, administrators, and colleagues," Battisti said. "They see the need for building a construction and skilled trades program and the impact it can have. We have very ambitious goals and couldn't achieve them without the support from everyone."

## Q A How does the proposed capital project affect the district's 2024-25 budget?

The capital project proposal and the district's operating budget for the 2024-25 school year are completely separate. If the capital project is approved, the maximum estimated tax increase related to the proposed capital project would not be reflected in school tax bills until September 2026.

## Q A When would the project be complete?

If residents approve the proposed capital project on May 21, work would begin as early as summer 2025. Renovations at both campuses would continue during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years, with most work occurring during the school and summer breaks to limit disruptions to the learning process. All work related to the capital project would be complete by the start of the 2027-28 school year.

## Q A What happens if voters do not approve the capital project?

If residents do not approve the proposed capital project on May 21, issues related to safety and infrastructure would remain and have the potential to disrupt students' educational environment. Broadalbin-Perth would still have to address these issues on a case-by-case basis, and all costs for that work would have to be paid from the district's operating budget in the same year the expenses were incurred, without any state aid reimbursement. If work has to be done on an emergency basis, it would likely be more costly and could potentially disrupt the learning process.

Paying for these projects would be further complicated by the fact that the state's tax cap law has limited the district's ability to raise local taxes to support the operating budget. By funding infrastructure needs through the general fund — and not a capital project — it is possible that the district would have to cut academic programs and student services to maintain a balanced budget.

The district would also have the option of revising the capital project and presenting voters with a different proposal at a later date. The concern here would be further wear and tear on the buildings in the meantime, which would only increase costs overall.

## Q A Why do the cost estimates for individual project elements seem so high?

If residents approve the proposed capital project, the district will collect bids from contractors to complete the work described in this publication, and the bids the district receives will determine the actual final cost of each element of the project. The estimates provided on page 3 were prepared by the district's architectural firm, CSArch, in collaboration with construction management firm Schoolhouse Construction Services, and include funds for architectural and legal services, as well as contingencies and such incidentals as paint and furniture. The estimates are conservative to ensure the capital project proposal includes enough money to do all the work described.

State law requires school districts to collect bids for all work to be done as part of a capital project. This allows the district to select the lowest bid for work that will meet detailed specifications. Often, the actual cost of renovations comes in lower than initial estimates.

Several factors make school renovations more expensive than people might expect, including state prevailing wage laws and the state Wicks Law, which requires municipalities to collect bids from separate contractors on different parts of any building or renovation projects that cost more than \$500,000. Also, school building codes are much more strict than home building codes, particularly when it comes to fire prevention. Another factor is that very little work can be done when school is in session from September to June. Squeezing projects into two summer months and competing with other school districts to use that time window tends to drive bids up.

## Q A Will my taxes go down if the project is not approved?

Although many factors affect school property taxes, it is unlikely taxes will decrease if residents do not approve the capital project. Many of the issues that the capital project would address would still require attention, and the district would have to fund that work through its annual operating budget. Doing so would mean a longer timeline, making the work more expensive because of inflation. In the meantime, students, employees, and community members would continue to use the district's buildings and grounds, inevitably causing additional deterioration.

With few exceptions, only construction work completed through a capital project is eligible for state building aid, which would reimburse Broadalbin-Perth 81.3% of the costs associated with capital project work. Because of this, completing necessary work outside of a capital project would be paid for entirely by local taxpayers.



▲ Installing lighting at the varsity baseball and softball fields would not only illuminate the fields themselves, but also the adjacent tennis/pickleball and outdoor basketball courts. Adding turf to the infields would reduce maintenance costs, including the need to tarp the baseball and softball fields to keep water off of them and having to fill in depressed areas after heavy spring rains.

The turf and lights at the baseball and softball fields will increase the time when the fields are playable. Drainage issues with the current natural grass on the infields of both facilities result in many canceled and rescheduled games, especially during the wet spring months. During the baseball and softball season, district groundskeepers spend upwards of four hours per day trying to maintain the fields in playable condition. Despite their best efforts, when the fields are unplayable, the district often pays to play games at Amsterdam’s Shuttleworth Park rather than cancel or reschedule those games.

Neither the baseball or softball field is usable after sundown, so adding lights would allow games to be played and practices to be held into the evening hours. These additions would also allow Broadalbin-Perth to host Little League baseball and softball games and tournaments organized through the Broadalbin Youth Commission (BYC) — something that is not possible with the limited hours current facilities are available to use. The lights would also allow for extended community use of the nearby outdoor tennis/pickleball and basketball courts.

“It is not common for school athletic facilities to be wide open for community use,” Superintendent of Schools Stephen Tomlinson said. “But it has long been the philosophy at B-P that our community should have as much access to our athletic facilities as possible. After all, our schools belong to our community.”

Tomlinson also noted that many other school districts charge youth sports organizations for the use of athletic facilities, but Broadalbin-Perth allows groups such as the Broadalbin Youth Commission to use the schools’ fields and courts at no charge. If district leaders did decide to charge, the BYC alone would expect to pay more than \$10,000 annually in facility use fees, driving up participation fees for families. Reducing the costs associated with maintaining the district’s athletic facilities will allow B-P to continue to provide free access to those athletic facilities for youth programs into the future.

## Why are renovations to athletics facilities included in the capital project proposal?

Broadalbin-Perth is committed to educating the whole child, which includes promoting exercise and wellness at all ages. In addition to serving B-P’s 26 interscholastic and unified athletic programs, as well as supporting youth commission sports programs, school gymnasiums and playing fields are also classrooms for the physical education classes that every child takes.

If residents approve the \$37.8 million capital project proposal, the district would reconstruct the track at Patriot Field, add artificial turf to the infields of the varsity baseball and softball fields, and add lighting to the varsity baseball and softball fields that would also serve the adjacent tennis/pickleball courts.

The deterioration of the track — which is used year-round by students and community members alike — increases the risk of injury to those who use it. During the 2023-24 school year, the district invested about \$100,000 from the general operating budget to make necessary repairs to allow the district to host the Section 2 outdoor track and field championships this spring. This event will bring more than 3,000 people to the B-P community, giving a boost to the local economy. The district has received requests from other organizations, including the Special Olympics, seeking to hold events at B-P facilities. Reconstructing the track would allow Broadalbin-Perth to continue to compete for the right to host these kinds of large-scale events in the future.



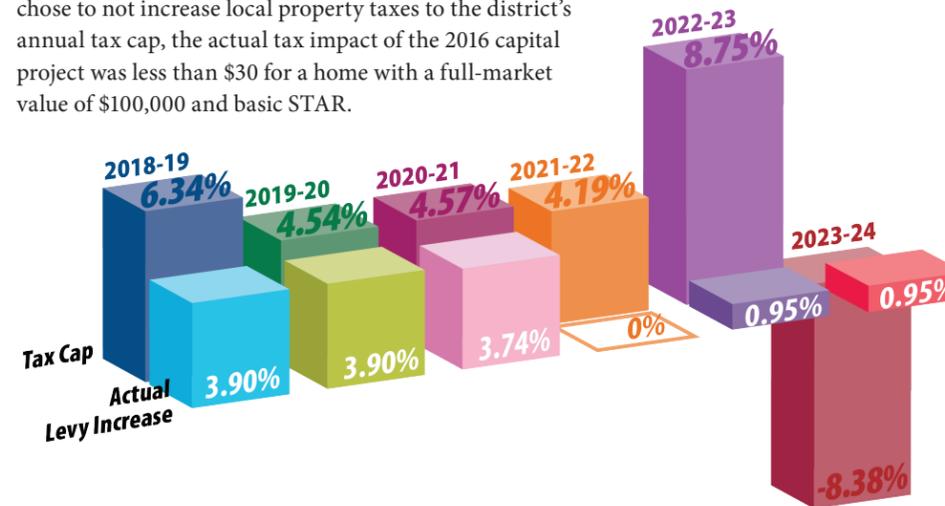
▲ The outdoor track at Patriot Field, which was constructed in 20XX, shows signs of wear and tear from use by physical education students, student-athletes, and members of the community.

## What does it mean that the property tax impact of the project is referred to as a “maximum” tax increase?

School districts pay for capital projects each year through the debt service portion of the annual operating budget. Every year, the Board of Education must propose an annual operating budget to voters, and every year, voters must decide whether to approve that budget. School district budgets are heavily influenced by New York state’s tax cap law, which limits the increase in the local tax levy to 2% or the rate of inflation, with some exemptions. Taxes to be levied to pay for capital projects are among those exemptions.

If future boards of education choose to propose annual operating budgets with tax levy increases at the calculated tax cap, then district taxpayers would pay the maximum projected tax increase according to the chart on page 2.

In five of the past six years, B-P’s Board of Education has proposed budgets calling for tax levy increases below the district’s calculated tax cap (see chart below). During that time, the district’s tax cap calculation has included exemptions for taxes to be levied to pay for the 2016 capital project. When voters considered the \$39.7 million capital project in 2016, the district’s financial advisors projected a maximum tax increase of \$55 for a home with a full-market value of \$100,000 and basic STAR. Because the Board of Education chose to not increase local property taxes to the district’s annual tax cap, the actual tax impact of the 2016 capital project was less than \$30 for a home with a full-market value of \$100,000 and basic STAR.



## What exactly will be on the ballot?

### PROPOSITION #3

Shall the Board of Education be authorized, construct additions to and reconstruct various School District buildings, including site work, including drainage improvements along the western access road, extension of sidewalks in front of the campus, replacement of playground area surface treatment with artificial turf, building renovations including new doors, windows, roofs, mechanical equipment and room reconfiguration site work including extension of a sidewalk from Bridge Street, limited grading and earthwork to support access to a new outdoor teaching space, track surface reconstruction, artificial turf on baseball and softball fields, lighting of baseball and softball fields/tennis/pickle ball courts, building renovations including new doors, windows and roofs site work including replacement of the existing diesel fueling station at a maximum cost of \$37,845,000, and raise the cost of the project (including the interest due on any District obligations) by a tax levy to be collected in annual installments, with District obligations to be issued in anticipation thereof?

## What does this mean?

### PROPOSITION #3

Residents are asked to vote on a proposal approved by the B-P Board of Education on March 18 that would allow the school district to borrow money to complete the capital project work described in this publication at a cost not to exceed \$37,845,000. The owner of a district home with a full-market value of \$100,000 would see a maximum increase of \$33 on their September 2026 tax bill if voters approve the project.

## Who can vote?

In order to vote, a person must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, registered to vote, and a resident of the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the May 21 vote.

## How do I register to vote?

Residents who have registered to vote in general elections are automatically registered to vote on the budget proposal.

District residents who have not registered to vote in general elections may register to vote on the proposed budget 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays in the district office, or by calling the district clerk at 518-954-2501 to make other arrangements.

## Can I vote by absentee ballot?

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Contact the district office at 518-954-2501 to obtain an application.

If you want your ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by May 14. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by May 20.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the district office by 5 p.m. on May 21.

**Board of Education**

Chad Egan, *President*  
Ryan Crane, *Vice President*  
Emily Behnke  
Keith Buchanan  
Samantha Gallup  
Allison Goodspeed  
Ed Szumowski

**Superintendent of Schools**

Stephen Tomlinson

**BROADALBIN-PERTH** CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

20 Pine Street  
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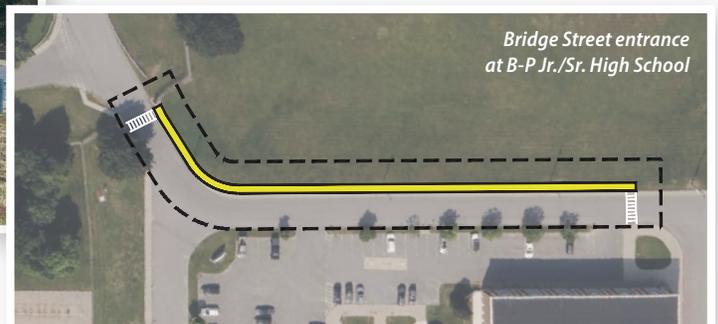
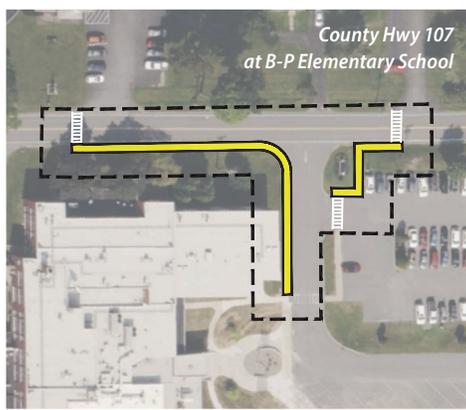
**BOXHOLDER**

Broadalbin, NY 12025

**Q A** **How would the capital project improve student safety?**

At both campuses, a lack of sidewalks makes approaching the school buildings tricky for pedestrians. Although parking was expanded at the elementary school as part of the district's last capital project, it is still insufficient for events during the school day when parents are invited to attend. During those events, visitors park across the street at Perth Bible Church and must cross busy County Highway 107. At the junior/senior high school, more than 100 students walk to and from school each day, and the lack of sidewalks along the front of the building means that pedestrians must contend with buses and passenger vehicles while navigating a narrow shoulder.

If residents approve the \$37.8 million proposal, sidewalks would be added both along County Highway 107 (see rendering top left) and at the junior/senior high school along the main access road at the front of the building (see rendering below).



▲ Broadalbin-Perth would extend the Bridge Street sidewalk to the school entrances, improving safety for the more than 100 junior/senior high school students who walk to and from school each day.