



Hastings Happenings

Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District

A Message From The Board Of Education

Dear Hastings Residents,

The Hastings Board of Education is pleased to bring forward this newsletter regarding the Hastings 2025 Capital Bond. This bond was two years in the making and truly handmade, involving dozens of public meetings, hundreds of community letters, and in-depth consultations with technical partners, teachers, administrators, and coaches. All of this input has shaped the bond, including our repeated efforts to reduce its scope and expense.

No bond is cost-free or simple. The depth of analysis and revisions gives our Board every confidence that each dollar within the three bond propositions has been vetted for how it can beneficially impact students and for how it can help foster a strong K-12 school system, undergirding the stable home values Hastings residents have a right to expect.

Most bonds look forward. This one does too. It also looks back, because many of the needs within our schools are rooted in the past: the advanced age of our buildings, space-downsizing decisions begun in the late 1980s when the District was 40% smaller, and the absence of previous capital expenditure in the Middle School and High School educational spaces.

Though the bond touches on all three of our schools, at its heart is an attempt to redress the state of the Middle School, which is 40% smaller than the High School even though it serves the same number of students. Our community has made it known to our Board, in various ways over the years, that the Middle School has become hard to learn in, hard to teach in, and hard to lead. Both data and observation bear this out.

The work contained within the bond therefore is not about what is esoteric or marquee. It seeks to redress something more fundamental. It is about ingredients which our community may consider central and deserved for every child's opportunity within our schools: space, light, quiet, and organization.

Lastly, on costs, we consider this bond timely because the entirety of the project will lock-in a NYS Building Aid reimbursement rate of 47.5%, a rate we have reason to believe will be significantly lowered for future projects. Furthermore, when bond debt payments begin in 2029, these would be paid as part of school taxes and residents should note that all applicable tax exemptions will apply: NYS STAR, Enhanced STAR, Veterans Exemption, as well the local exemptions which our Board recently passed—the Senior Exemption and the FF/EMS Exemption.

Please find further details within.

Sincerely,
Board of Education Trustees



BOND At-a-Glance

Building Conditions Survey
(BCS) Items - \$11,254,780
Farragut Complex Addition &
Instructional Space - \$19,049,461
Athletic Fields and Site Work
at Burke Estate - \$8,171,259

**TUESDAY
June 17, 2025**

SCHOOL BOND VOTE
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Cochran Gymnasium
Hastings High School



Visit our dedicated bond page at:
<https://www.hohschools.org/boe/budget-bond-information/bond-information>

Capital Bond Propositions Overview

The proposed Capital Bond includes three major priorities, required to ensure that our students have the educational facilities and athletic spaces needed for their success.

- Proposition #1: Building Conditions Survey (BCS) Items** – Mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) upgrades across district facilities. These necessary improvements, identified through the state-mandated BCS, involve replacing old and outdated equipment and bringing building systems up to current code. Upgrading the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure is critical to ensure safety, energy efficiency, and the long-term functionality of our schools. \$11,254,780
- Proposition #2: Farragut Complex Addition & Instructional Space** – Creation of instructional space, including new classrooms and special education spaces, in the footprint of the existing cafeteria; relocating the existing cafeteria by creating a new addition in the Farragut Courtyard; the creation of an ADA-compliant front entrance at the Farragut building; bringing spaces up to current code standards and compliance including accessibility. \$19,049,461
- Proposition #3: Athletic Fields and Site Work at Burke Estate** – Installation of two artificial turf fields (multisport field and softball field) and associated site work at the Burke Estate. \$8,171,259

The community will have the opportunity to vote on each proposition individually, with Propositions #2 and #3 dependent on the approval of the prior propositions.

Why the Vote Is Structured This Way

The Board chose to present the bond in three separate propositions because we listened to concerns from the community. We understand that different parts of the bond carry different priorities for different people.

- Proposition 1 includes essential maintenance and critical system upgrades—things like masonry restoration, ventilation, HVAC, electric, and safety systems. These are capital repairs necessary to keep our school buildings running properly and safely. Without these foundational upgrades, the rest of the proposed bond would not be possible.
- Proposition 2 focuses on adding badly needed instructional and special education spaces. These are high-priority renovations that directly support our students’ learning and inclusion. The relocation of the cafeteria is a cost-effective move to reclaim classroom space in the heart of the building and allow for a new cafeteria that is code-compliant for over 1,100 students, and is designed to be a compelling community space for the school district and the Village.
- Proposition 3 is for athletic field improvements, which are also important—but we understand that some community members are concerned about overall costs. The reason Prop 3 depends on Prop 2 passing is that, while fields matter, the district believes educational space and student support services must take priority over interscholastic sports facilities if choices need to be made.

What happens if it doesn't pass?

We would turn to the operating budgets for the equivalent school years (i.e., 2025-26 onward) to pay for required capital facility work as specified by the BCS. There would be a serious “push-out” effect, resulting in significantly reduced resources for academic and extracurricular personnel and programming in each annual budget.



New Entrance



Classroom Interior



Lockers & Halls



Cafeteria Exterior



Cafeteria Interior

What is a Bond?

Capital Bonds fund long-term projects—like building upgrades or renovations—based on five-year state-required Building Condition Surveys. Capital bonds spread the cost of big improvements over time, helping districts plan efficiently for the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

For more FAQs please visit our dedicated bond page.

Q. *What occurs after the bond vote is approved?*

A. Once the bond vote is approved by voters, it represents the total amount the District is authorized to borrow, and the scope of work that generally needs to be completed as outlined. For example, if the bond vote includes specific elements, like the installation of artificial turf fields, that scope cannot be eliminated or significantly altered without potential legal challenges. Voters could argue that they wouldn’t have approved the bond if they knew certain work was going to be removed.

Q. *What is our District’s current aid ratio and can this decrease?*

A. Currently, our District’s aid ratio stands at 47.5%, which is an increase from the previous 42%. This ratio is used to determine the level of state reimbursement we can receive for capital projects, including facility work. It is widely accepted that the current aid ratio, which would be locked in for the life of this Bond, could be lower for future bonds. We must take advantage of this opportunity to have nearly half the Bond costs reduced with state assistance.

Q. *What are the current classroom state code requirements and are our buildings up to code?*

A. Unfortunately, Farragut Middle School is too small in several documented ways for the current and anticipated population. This has been a problem for at least a decade. Nearly every classroom in FMS is below state code for appropriate teaching space. We currently are sub-600 sq ft compared to the state code of 770 sq ft. This has resulted in exceedingly crowded classrooms, hallways, support spaces, as well as the cafeteria, which is 50% smaller than required.

Q. *How will the district allocate usage of two turf fields to ensure equitable access for all sports?*

A. We understand the importance of ensuring that all teams have equitable access to field time. With the existing facilities we struggle with scheduling teams fairly. Currently, without dedicated turf options, we face significant challenges in rotating field usage, particularly with the combination of grass fields and the high volume of teams competing for limited space. Many schools in the region, like ours, have a mix of artificial turf and natural grass fields. The proposed turf field will help resolve this

issue by providing a consistent, high-quality playing surface that can be used year-round, regardless of weather conditions. This will significantly reduce scheduling conflicts and allow us to equitably distribute field time between teams.

Tax Levy Information

Q. *Why is a new entrance way required for FMS and HHS?*

A. FMS and HHS do not have ADA compliant access through a single, security monitored entranceway. The existing ramp into FMS brings individuals into the lower floor, still requiring stairways to be navigated to get to any upper floors, and to access the elevator. Having an alternative door for students requiring a handicapped entrance is not appropriate from a security and equity standpoint. Standard security procedures are for all students and visitors to enter through a security monitored door. Creating a single entry for both schools, central to both facilities, solves the accessibility, equity and security issues.

Q. *Please explain why the current cafeteria is too small relative to total student population (and state codes) and requires significant renovations.*

A. The current Cafeteria at 4,350 gross square feet (GSF) is undersized by almost 50% relative to total student population at 1,053 students currently enrolled at FMS/HHS, which is why a new Cafeteria is eligible to receive aid from NYSED. The food service areas of the Cafeteria are congested, with difficult access and long lines, resulting in students not having enough time to eat during lunch period. The existing Cafeteria is outdated, needing new lighting and finishes and the kitchen needing new exhaust and ANSUL system. Access to the Cafeteria is problematic particularly at the central connector where students pass through a narrow stair tower which creates conditions of questionable code compliance for egress and circulation.

The new Cafeteria, proposed at 5,814 GSF, will provide 1,464 GSF of additional floor area. It is a double height space because it is on the basement/garden level of the building and needs to bridge between the Courtyard ground level and the High School main lobby. This is not a source of added costs and is essential to make the new cafeteria efficient for student use.

Q. *What is the estimated added tax costs per household for the Bond?*

A. The BOE worked intensively with the administration, architects and engineers to arrive at a proposed scope of work for the Bond that balances real needs with the tax concerns of residents. The BOE kept

insisting on a refinement of proposals until the current total of \$38,475,491 was finalized, reduced from an original proposal of \$45,500,000. A driver was minimizing the annual tax costs for Hastings residents. Analysis was based on homes with an average assessed value of \$1.1 million. With the first tax increase occurring in 2029, the estimated costs are as follows,

Total Bond: \$38,475,491

\$716 per year; \$60 per month*

Prop #1 – \$11,254,780

BCS Work: \$210 per year;
\$17.50 per month*

Prop #2 – \$19,049,461

Front Entrance: \$18 per year;
\$1.50 per month*

Classroom Renovations and Cafeteria:
\$337 per year; \$28.08 per month*

Prop #3 – \$8,171,259

Athletic Fields Renovations:
\$152 per year; \$12.67 per month*

** These are best estimates of cost per household*



Timeline

June 17, 2025

Bond Vote

July–December 2025

Construction documents prepared

December 2025

Projects submitted to the State
(Currently 6-7 month review process
without third party review)

February 2026–August 2026

Fields Installed

April 2026

Building Construction Projects
approved by State

September 2026–October 2027

Building Construction



Building Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements

Maintaining safe, functional, and inclusive school facilities is essential to supporting student learning. As part of our commitment to improving our schools, we are prioritizing critical maintenance and upgrades across our buildings.

This includes essential improvements to mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems—ensuring they meet modern efficiency, safety, and code standards. We are also addressing structural needs, such as repointing aging masonry, to preserve the integrity of our school buildings and avoid more costly repairs down the line.

A major focus of this work is improving accessibility and security at our main entrances. Currently, the security vestibule is not fully accessible for individuals with disabilities. This bond will support the creation of a new, streamlined entryway that enhances building security while providing safe, equitable access for all students, staff, and visitors.

These enhancements are about more than infrastructure—they’re about building better, safer learning environments for everyone in our school community.



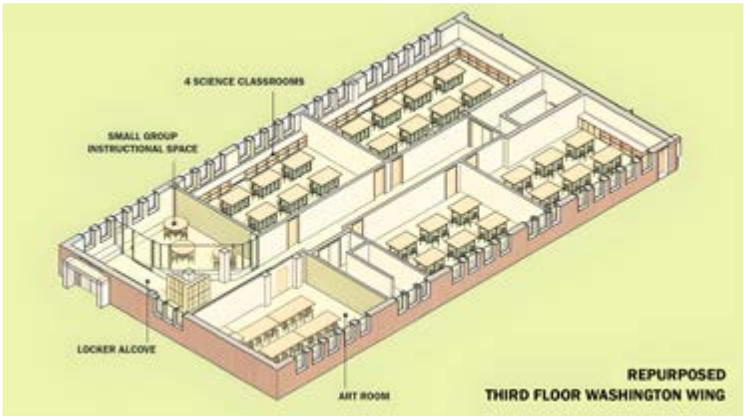
Instructional Space – Classrooms/Hallways

Another major focus of this bond is the critical need for instructional space at the Farragut Complex. A two-year space analysis revealed that all available rooms are in use throughout the day, leaving no room to expand much-needed academic programs, particularly for MTSS and our Special Education students. To create more learning spaces, we propose renovating the existing cafeteria to provide new classrooms and dedicated, code-compliant spaces for student services.

We want to be clear about the **total program space** gain in the Farragut Complex as a result of the proposed renovations.

- Space Gain for FMS: five Classrooms; one small group instructional space; and, Middle School Locker alcoves.
- Flexible program areas for HHS: one small group instructional space; open Seating at Cafeteria Overlook; Enlarged Conference Room; Private Individual Conference Pods at HS Main Lobby; Community Room to replace the Blue Lecture Room.
- Farragut Complex in total: New Cafeteria & Kitchen; New Accessible Entry with improved flow to classrooms, offices and cafeteria.

In addition, these space gains would allow the school flexibility in program locations in other areas of the school to help address space needs for special education and chorus.



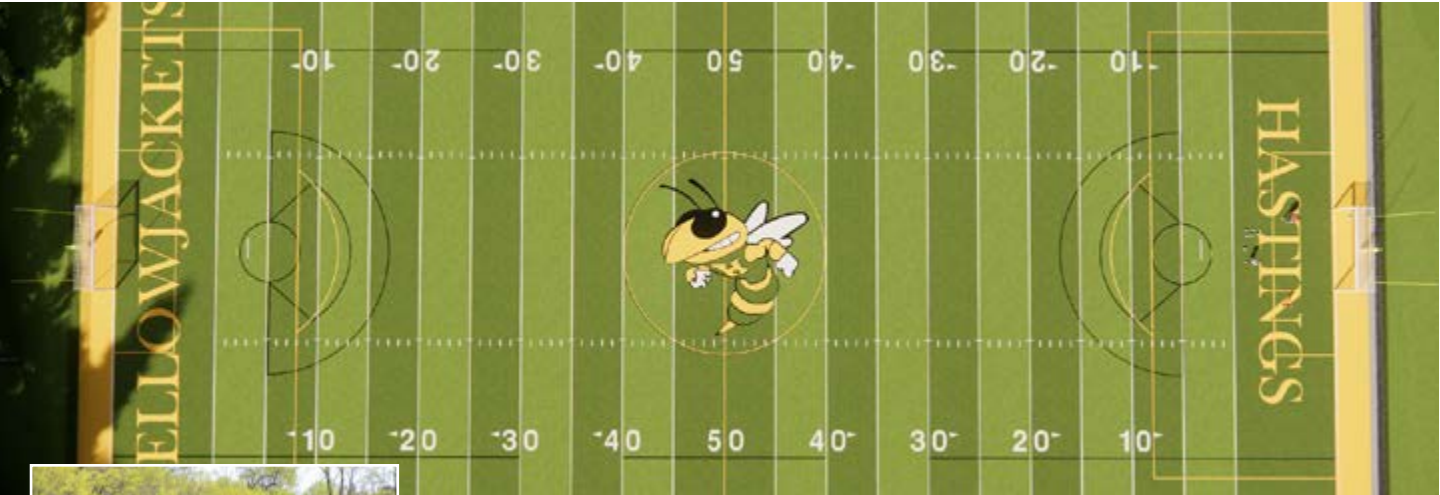


Reimagining the Heart of the Farragut Complex

The relocation of the FMS and HHS cafeteria marks a transformative leap in solving long standing challenges while paving the way for a future-ready learning environment. Currently tucked into the third floor of the Washington Wing—prime instructional space—the outdated and undersized cafeteria hinders student flow, limits educational opportunities, and fails to meet the needs of a changing student population.

By moving the cafeteria to a new, double-height space in the underutilized courtyard, the school will unlock five new modern classrooms, alleviate a 20% instructional space shortage, and improve circulation throughout the building. The new cafeteria design—filled with natural light, adjacent to the play yard, and efficiently laid out—will offer students an inviting, functional dining experience that meets today’s educational standards and supports the daily rhythm of both middle and high school life.

This strategic relocation is more than a facilities upgrade—it’s the foundation for educational excellence. With modern, code-compliant classrooms replacing the current cafeteria, and a new dining space revitalizing the school’s core, Hastings is embracing innovation, efficiency, and student-centered design that will serve generations to come.



Athletic Fields – Mixed Model of Natural and Artificial Turf Fields

Hastings’ athletic fields must better serve our student-athletes and maximize field usage. We envision a mixed model of five natural turf fields and two artificial turf fields, providing our student-athletes reliable and high-quality fields that can be used more frequently.

The girls’ softball field is the only athletic field not located at our main facility. In addition, its rocky foundation causes major drainage issues that prevent consistent use. We propose relocating the field to the Burke Estate practice field and installing an artificial turf surface. This move brings the softball program closer to campus and allows for more reliable play. Additionally, we plan to convert the Upper Burke Field (soccer and lacrosse) into a multi-purpose artificial turf field. This will provide a high-quality playing surface for our soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey teams while reducing wear and tear on our existing natural turf fields.

The bond also includes necessary site improvements for the baseball field, including improved drainage, new dugouts and fencing, and reconstruction of the retaining wall to enhance safety. New parking will be added at the Burke Estate to allow handicapped accessibility.

We are striving to have the best quality and “greenest” artificial field available on the market. Due to public competitive bidding requirements, we are not able to identify a specific firm or product in advance. However, we can list the specifications for the RFP process. On May 20, 2025, the BOE endorsed by consensus a set of Preliminary Synthetic Turf Requirements. Available on the Bond Webpage, the specifications stress that the product must be environmentally responsible, safe, and high-performing for multi-sport athletic use; infill must exclude rubber-based products, using approved organic or mineral alternatives; support various sports (e.g., lacrosse, soccer, football); has a 12-year warranty per NYSED standards, and be recyclable or repurposable; must be free of lead and PFAS; and, is from manufacturers with over 10 years of experience, including at least 25 large-scale U.S. installations and 10 in public school districts. Lastly, the stormwater management design for the project will be developed in full compliance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) stormwater standards. The design will incorporate a filtration system to effectively reduce total suspended solids (TSS) and microplastics, thereby enhancing water quality and supporting environmental sustainability.

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Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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BOND VOTE · Tuesday, June 17, 2025 · 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Cochran Gymnasium · Hastings High School

Voter Registration Information

If you are a registered voter in Hastings, you are qualified to vote.
If you are not a registered voter in Hastings, please see the guidelines below.

Qualifications to Register to Vote

- be a United States citizen;
- be 18 years old by the time of the vote;
- be a resident of Hastings village for at least 30 days before the election;
- not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction (unless the parolee is pardoned or restored rights of citizenship);
- not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court;
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

How and Where to Register to Vote

- You can register in person or online through the county board of elections or at any New York State Agency-Based voter registration center.
- You may also submit your voter application form at the Department of Motor Vehicles, either in person or on their website if you already have DMV-issued identification.
- You can call 1-800-FOR-VOTE hotline to request a voter application.

- You can also register to vote at a special registration on Thursday, June 12, 2025 from 4 - 8 p.m. in the lobby of Hastings High School, 1 Mt. Hope Boulevard, Hastings-on-Hudson.
- If you register at the school, it will only qualify you to vote in school district budgets/elections/bond referendums. You must be a US citizen and bring appropriate identification that shows you are a Hastings resident and will be 18 years old by the time of the vote.

New York State Voter Registration Form

(must be mailed or delivered to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains NY 10601 at least 25 days before the vote)

- You may register to vote using the New York State Voter Registration Form accessible at the links below. You can complete a PDF version of the New York State Voter Registration Form on-line by clicking on the link below, typing the necessary information and selecting the appropriate boxes. Alternatively, you can print the form to complete by hand.
- Complete English Form On-line
- Complete Spanish Form On-line
- Once the form is completed, you need to print the form and sign it. We cannot accept any kind of digital or Adobe-generated signature. Then, mail the form to the *Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains NY 10601.*

