

SWEET HOME SOURCE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE



WINTER 2025
CAPITAL PROJECT 2025
SPECIAL EDITION
ISSUE 7

ADDING LEARNING SPACE

Additions and renovations to our Elementary buildings will provide 21st-century learning space for our growing population.

MAINTAINING FACILITIES

Addressing critical building maintenance items will ensure safe, secure, and reliable facilities.

INVESTING IN ATHLETICS

Enhancements to gyms and our athletic facility will increase opportunities for all students.

CAPITAL PROJECT 2025

SPECIAL EDITION

Investing in our students' future

EVERY STUDENT. ONE COMMUNITY. READY FOR THE FUTURE.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Sweet Home Community,

“Ready for the Future” is not just a motto at Sweet Home...it is our mission. We take that mission seriously and with a high level of determination and pride. On December 16, 2025, we are asking our great community to vote on what promises to be a transformational Capital Improvement Project. These much needed improvements will provide additional classrooms at the elementary level, renovate elementary learning spaces, provide needed maintenance and security upgrades at each building in the District, and enhance our athletic facilities at the High School and elementary levels. This project was built by our community, and it is for our community. It provides \$90.5 million in improvements across all of our campuses so we can prepare our students and help reach our mission of “Ready for the Future.”

This plan reflects years of thoughtful planning and collaboration among families, staff, students, and residents. From the initial ThoughtExchange survey in 2023 to this fall's PTA/O/SA and community forums, we are listening carefully to what matters most to you - safe, welcoming, and future-ready learning spaces for all students.

Just as importantly, the Board of Education and District remain committed to presenting a plan that is fiscally responsible to our voters. By strategically aligning this project with expiring debt, available state aid, and existing capital reserve funds, we are able to bring forward meaningful improvements to our schools while carefully managing the financial impact on our community.

We believe this project represents an investment not only in our buildings, but in the very heart of Sweet Home's mission: Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future.

On **Tuesday, December 16, 2025** our community will have the opportunity to vote on this important initiative. Voting will take place from 7 AM to 9 PM in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center of Sweet Home High School, 1901 Sweet Home Road in Amherst. Your participation ensures that every voice is heard as we plan for the future of our facilities.

Thank you for your trust, your feedback, and your continued support of Sweet Home Schools. Together, we're building more than facilities - we're building a legacy of pride and opportunity for every student who walks through our doors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Michael V. Ginestre".

Dr. Michael V. Ginestre
Superintendent of Schools



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT VOTE

SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL, DECEMBER 16, 2025 7AM–9PM

PROPOSITION #1 | \$55.2M

Focuses on additions to Maplemere, Heritage Heights, and Glendale Elementaries to add 10 total classrooms for growing enrollment, as well as critical maintenance upgrades touching all buildings.

TAX NEUTRAL

PROPOSITION #2 | \$35.3M

Additional enhancements to elementary spaces including existing classroom renovations, gym upgrades, and corridor improvements, as well as turf replacement and athletic facility improvements.

ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

Proposition #2 includes a one-time increase of \$64 per the average \$250,000 home value

Proposition #2 cannot be approved without a positive vote on Proposition #1

3 MAIN PRIORITIES



ADDING LEARNING
SPACE FOR STUDENTS
AND STAFF



MAINTAINING SAFE,
SECURE, AND
RELIABLE FACILITIES



INVESTING IN
ATHLETICS AND
COMMUNITY PRIDE

A PROJECT BUILT BY AND FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

On December 16, 2025, we are asking our community to vote on a proposed \$90.5 million capital improvement project that will add much-needed classrooms to our elementary buildings, renovate learning spaces at the elementary level, improve security, make major enhancements to our athletic facilities, and provide critical maintenance to each of our buildings. This tremendous opportunity for Sweet Home addresses the increase in our enrollment and our community's wishes to enhance learning environments for all students.

The planning phase of this capital improvement project began with soliciting input from the Sweet Home community. In October 2023, we utilized the survey platform ThoughtExchange to gather hundreds of unique pieces of input regarding our school buildings from our school community. We also held several in-person focus groups, including gathering input from students. The results have shaped, and will continue to shape, the scope of this project.

Survey results included the following:

756 COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

635 UNIQUE THOUGHTS

20,413 THOUGHT RATINGS

14 IN-PERSON FOCUS GROUPS

WHAT SHAPES THE SCOPE OF THIS PROJECT?

- community input
- enrollment trends
- Building Condition Survey
- fiscal responsibility



Conceptual rendering of additions to Maplemere Elementary

FINANCIAL *impact*

How are we able to spend \$90.5 million without passing high costs on to taxpayers?

Scan to learn more on our website:



- state aid funding
- expiring debt service from 2004 project
- use of \$3 million in Capital Reserve funds

ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

ASSESSED HOME VALUE

\$250,000

IMPACT OF PROPOSITION #1

\$0 Tax Increase
0% Tax Increase

IMPACT OF PROPOSITION #2

\$64 Tax Increase
2.61% Tax Increase

*Estimated based on 24-25 valuations;
Amherst = \$250,000 Assessed Value (AV) at 100%,
Tonawanda = \$57,500 Assessed Value (AV) at 23%

Note: if both propositions are approved, the tax increase would be seen on the 27-28 school tax bill.

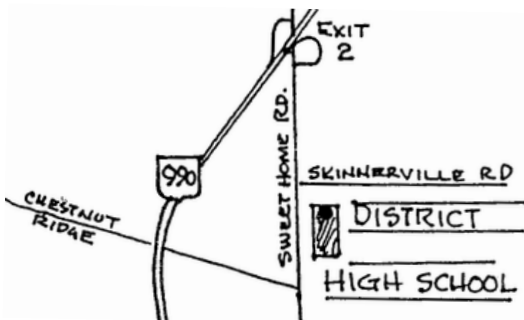
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT VOTE

SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL, DECEMBER 16, 2025 7AM–9PM

WHEN & WHERE?

Voting on the Capital Improvement Project 2025 will take place between the hours of 7 AM and 9 PM on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center of Sweet Home High School, 1901 Sweet Home Road in Amherst. The Vergils Center is on the north end of the building located adjacent to the District Offices and on the corner of Sweet Home and Skannersville Roads.

**NORMAN C. VERGILS
COMMUNITY CENTER
1901 SWEET HOME ROAD
CORNER OF SWEET HOME &
SKINNERSVILLE ROADS
ENTER VIA DOOR #6**



WHAT WILL YOU NEED?

TO VOTE, YOU MUST:

- provide proof of residency
- be a resident of the district for at least 30 days
- be at least 18 years old; and
- be a U.S. citizen

YOU NEED NOT:

- be a registered voter
- be a homeowner

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED TO VOTE:

All eligible voters will need to provide proof of residency in order to cast their ballots at the Capital Improvement Project 2025 Vote on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. According to Chapter 775 of the Laws of New York, voters must present one form of proof which testifies to their legal address:

- Board of Elections card
- post-marked mail
- driver's license
- rental/lease receipt
- non-driver Identification card; or
- utility bill



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The Sweet Home Central School District allows for the use of absentee ballots at all district votes and elections.

1) Request an absentee ballot application by calling (716) 250-1402 or emailing District Clerk Falon Derion at fderion@sweethomeschools.org. The ballot will be included with the application.

If returning the application and ballot by mail, make your request no later than 4:00 PM on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. If returning the application and ballot in person, make your request on or before December 15, 2025.

2) Completed applications and absentee ballots will not be accepted after 5:00 PM on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, to the District Clerk's Office.

Any questions regarding voting policy should be directed to the District Clerk's Office at (716) 250-1402 between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

PROPOSITION #1

\$55.2M

TAX NEUTRAL

Proposition #1 includes the following:

GLENDALE ELEMENTARY

2 classroom additions, library renovation, playground improvements to include Pre-K and adaptive equipment, roof replacement, new exit lighting, upgrade exterior building access controls, HVAC controls upgrade, replacement of HVAC rooftop units, & new boilers for the building

HERITAGE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

2 classroom additions, library renovation, playground improvements to include Pre-K and adaptive equipment, upgrade exterior building access controls, new boilers for the building, & water cooler replacements throughout the building

MAPLEMERE ELEMENTARY

6 classroom additions, library renovation, playground improvements to include Pre-K and adaptive equipment, upgrade exterior building access controls, cooling system/chiller replacement, paving of front loop, sidewalk repairs, & additional parking lot north of school

WILLOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Library renovation, playground improvements to include Pre-K and adaptive equipment, upgrade exterior building access controls, classroom carpet replacements, cooling system/chiller replacement, & crawlspace/drainage improvements

SERVICE CENTER

Electrical service upgrade to aid in the transition to electric buses (2035 mandate).



Conceptual rendering of a renovated Elementary library

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Full roof replacement

HIGH SCHOOL

Move Ready Academy from Dexter Terrace location to District Office space, renovation of District Office to accommodate Ready Academy

DEXTER TERRACE

Relocation of the District Office into building, provide secure entry for new District Office, upgrade fire alarm control panel, replace building cooling system, replace exit lighting, & provide additional parking off of current parking lot (70 car allowance)



Conceptual rendering of additions to Maplemere Elementary

PROPOSITION #2

\$35.3M, ONE-TIME \$64 TAX INCREASE

Proposition #2 includes the following:

GLENDALE ELEMENTARY

Classroom renovations - paint, casework, flooring, window blinds, corridor improvements - new paint & classroom cubbies, gymnasium renovations - refinishing of floors, paint and basketball hoops, & classroom door and hardware replacements - wireless locksets

HERITAGE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Classroom renovations - paint, casework, flooring, window blinds, corridor improvements - new paint & classroom cubbies, gymnasium renovations - refinishing of floors, paint and basketball hoops, renovation of multipurpose area outside of classroom pods, classroom door and hardware replacements - wireless locksets, & full replacement of track

MAPLEMERE ELEMENTARY

Classroom renovations - paint, casework, flooring, window blinds, corridor improvements - new paint & classroom cubbies, gymnasium renovations - refinishing of floors, paint, basketball hoops and wall mats, classroom door and hardware replacements - wireless locksets, & additional restroom in 100 wing

WILLOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Classroom renovations - paint, casework, flooring, window blinds, corridor improvements - new paint & classroom cubbies, gymnasium renovations - refinishing of floors, paint, basketball hoops and wall mats, & classroom door and hardware replacements - wireless locksets

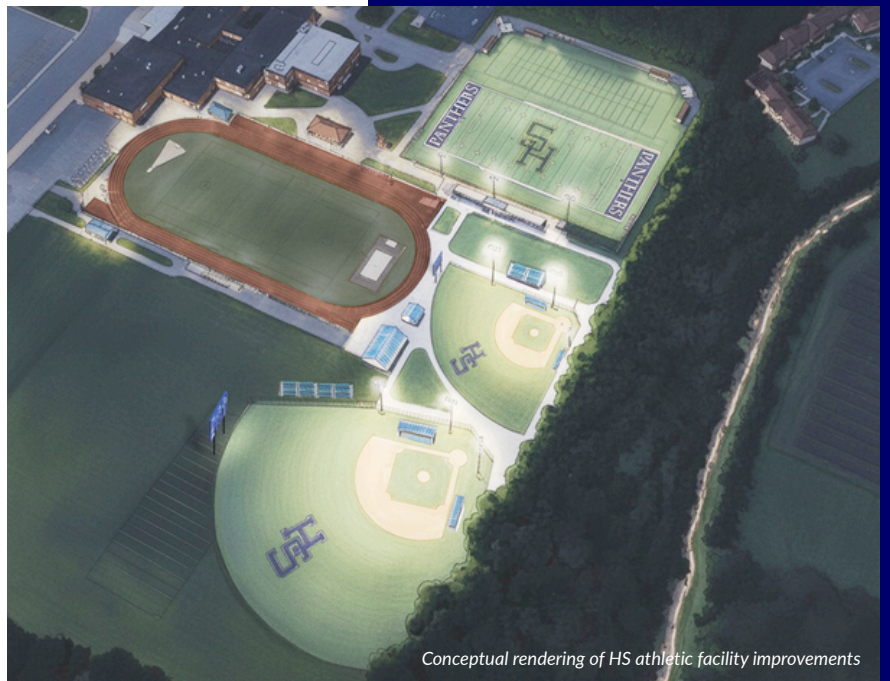


Conceptual rendering of a renovated Elementary classroom

HIGH SCHOOL

Existing turf field replacement, outdoor track resurfacing, add turf to the existing grass baseball & softball fields, add lights, dugouts, fencing and scoreboards to baseball & softball fields, & add walkways and ticket booth for easier entrance to outdoor athletic area

Sweet Home Middle School and Dexter Terrace have no work completed under Proposition #2.



Conceptual rendering of HS athletic facility improvements

Sweet Home Central School District
1901 Sweet Home Road
Amherst, NY 14228

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, NY
PERMIT NO. 4095

Stay connected!



sweethomeschools.org



Watch our Capital
Project video for
more details!



PUBLIC FORUMS

NOVEMBER 24, 2025

6:30 PM | High School Auditorium

DECEMBER 10, 2025

6:30 PM | Middle School Auditorium



PUBLIC VOTE

DECEMBER 16, 2025

7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Norman C. Vergils
Community Center
at the High School

This issue was copyedited by the following SUNY Fredonia students as part of Dr. Natalie Gerber's Foundations of Editing course (WRTG 354): Gianna Boccone, Avery Boyles, Julia Dunn, Alex Granata, Kit Kenyon, Jessica LaClair, Robyn London, Ali Salas, Elizabeth Mary Stone, and Jacob Thierfeldt.

DISTRICT PHONE NUMBERS

District Office	(716) 250-1400
District Clerk	(716) 250-1402
Central Registration	(716) 250-1600
Family Support Center	(716) 250-1228
Transportation	(716) 250-1434
Athletic Director	(716) 250-1207
High School	(716) 250-1203
Middle School	(716) 250-1452
Glendale Elementary	(716) 250-1500
Heritage Heights Elementary	(716) 250-1525
Maplemere Elementary	(716) 250-1550
Willow Ridge Elementary	(716) 250-1575

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peter Bellanti, President
Brian Laible, Vice President
Danyelle Anthon
Amy Battaglia
Marianne Jasen
Scott Johnson
Dirk Rabenold
Jaevon Coleman, ex officio student member



Dr. Michael V. Ginestre, Superintendent of Schools
Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent
for Finance & Plant Services
Dr. Toyia Wilson, Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction

#WEARESWEETHOME