Facility Improvement Project Proposal Q & A

2026 FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Why a facility reconstruction project and why now?
The proposed scope of work was developed after input from a variety of sources including community members and staff along with building condition surveys completed last year. Key points of focus include accessibility, learning environments, preserving building envelopes, replacement of aging components & infrastructure, and safety & security. The Board of Education periodically makes facility improvement project proposals to the voters in order to ensure that quality school facilities are maintained and prepared for the future, meet the changing needs of students, and protect the community's investment in school buildings. Pal-Mac voters most recently approved capital project propositions in 2021, 2017, and 2013.

Why is a playground proposed for the Hyde Parkway Campus?
While some may associate the proposed playground with the transition to a grades 3–6 instructional model, the educational purpose of a playground extends well beyond a particular grade configuration. Playground access is a regular part of school building condition surveys.

Play is also an important part of children's physical, social, and emotional development. A playground provides opportunities for students to be physically active during recess, but it also serves as an outdoor learning environment that supports physical education, playground safety instruction, and the development of important social skills.

Through structured and unstructured play, students learn to cooperate, include others, resolve disagreements, demonstrate sportsmanship, and build positive relationships. These experiences reinforce the social and emotional skills taught throughout the school day and contribute to a positive school culture.

A playground also represents an asset for the broader Pal-Mac community, providing an additional space for children and families to engage in healthy outdoor activity when available for community use.

The proposed playground reflects the District's recognition that learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom, and that opportunities for play, physical activity, and social development are important components of a comprehensive educational experience.

The importance of recess has also received increased attention at the state level. Legislation introduced in the New York State Senate and Assembly (S.6858-A/A.6939-A) would establish daily recess expectations for elementary students up to grade 6, recognizing that children learn through play and that recess contributes to physical health, emotional well-being, social development, and academic success.

The proposed legislation emphasizes opportunities for outdoor, student-directed play. Although this legislation has not yet been enacted, it reflects a growing recognition that recess is more than a break from classroom instruction. It is an important part of a child's educational experience. Providing appropriate outdoor play spaces supports these developmental needs and helps ensure that school facilities are equipped to provide meaningful opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and learning.

What factors affect the estimated project cost?
If the proposition is approved, construction work would be publicly bid and contracts awarded to the lowest responsible bidders. Public school construction project cost estimates are significantly impacted by several state-mandated budgetary requirements. Under New York State Wicks Law, projects exceeding specific cost thresholds must issue separate prime contracts for general construction, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical work rather than a single unified contract. Additionally, contractors are legally required to pay Department of Labor prevailing wage rates to all project personnel. Overall project budgets are further impacted by incidental costs - such as architectural, engineering, construction management, legal, testing, and insurance fees - as well as estimates for construction and inflation contingencies.

NEED TO KNOW!!

Public Information Session

Tuesday, December 1, 2026
7 p.m.

Pal-Mac Middle School
163 Hyde Parkway
Palmyra, 14522

Voting

Wednesday, December 16, 2026
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Pal-Mac High School
151 Hyde Parkway
Palmyra, 14522

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident within the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District for a period of at least 30 days prior to the vote

Is approval of this facility improvement project required in order for the switch to three instructional buildings?
No. The Board of Education recently approved a series of recommendations for long-term sustainability, including a change to a 3-building instructional model. Starting next school year, regular instruction will be consolidated into three buildings to optimize resources, enhance teacher collaboration, and expand access to modern spaces.

Project scope descriptions are based on the following new configuration of buildings:

- Primary School (120 Canandaigua Street): Grades PK–2
- Intermediate School (163 Hyde Parkway): Grades 3–6
- High School (151 Hyde Parkway): Grades 7–12

The Board's decision to transition to a three-building instructional model and the proposed facility improvement project up for public vote in December are independent decisions. The reorganization into three instructional buildings is underway regardless of the outcome of the December 16th facility project vote.

However, the scope of the proposed project is aligned with the new instructional configuration. The 2026 project proposal does not include work at the West Street building.

If the project is approved, what money would be used to pay for the project costs?
No new Pal-Mac school taxes are required to fund the project. $7.4 million would come from existing Capital Reserve funds. The remainder of the project cost would be funded by New York State Building Aid.

Why does the proposition read, "...or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax..." if no new Pal-Mac school taxes are required to fund the proposed project?
It is the legal language required by buyers of municipal bonds. New York State Building Aid for reconstruction projects is paid over the course of 15 years. The District would borrow the money upfront by selling bonds. New York State Building Aid reimbursements to the District (including interest) are anticipated to exceed the debt service payments, so no new taxes are necessary.

Could this money be used for regular operating expenses, and to help fix budget deficits, instead?
No. New York State Building Aid is a separate funding stream designated solely for construction projects approved by the voters.

Was other work considered? Why isn't more work being proposed?
Yes, the proposed project scope was narrowed from a much larger list of potential work. The proposed project size is intended to complete as much work as possible using existing reserve funds with zero impact to local taxpayers.

Where can I see the architectural plans for the project?
They do not yet exist. Voter approval is required before the architects can be authorized to begin designing and creating construction documents.

Why do we have to vote on the Facility Improvement Project if it will not impact the tax levy?
New York State law requires voter approval for these school construction projects.

How does the Facility Improvement Project proposition affect the school budget?
The work would have no net impact on the regular school budget because New York State Building Aid reimbursements to the District would equal or exceed debt service payments for the project.



Telecommunications equipment racks and cable-management systems would be replaced districtwide. Telecommunications rooms districtwide would be relocated or reconstructed so that critical network equipment is housed in appropriate, secure, and maintainable spaces.



The original roof and HVAC components would be replaced at the Transportation building.

NO NEW SCHOOL TAXES REQUIRED