



Special Referendum Newsletter 2013

Capital Project Work to Address Security, Technology, General Maintenance, and Facilities Proposed

As you know, our school community has weathered fiscal challenges over the past five years that shook us to our core. With your support, proper planning and determination, we have moved past those darker fiscal times into a new era that has been coined the “new normal”.

For West Genesee this means doing what we do best and that is providing an unparalleled education for our students as well as safe and well kept school facilities that we can all be proud of.

It has been ten years since some facility needs have been addressed. These are:

- general maintenance needs,
- energy efficiency needs,
- some new construction needs, and
- society has also caused us to be

more mindful of security and technology considerations both in our buildings and on our campuses.

This Capital Project proposition is a compilation of all of the most important needs identified in a five year facility plan as well as needs that have been identified by security officials, technology officials, the Board of Education, and you as community members.

As your superintendent I would never propose something that did not have a solid fiscal plan behind it. This project has a total cost of \$24,305,200 and will have a resulting tax impact of less that \$6 on a home valued at \$100,000.

Those who have followed what we have accomplished fiscally since 2008, know that we always create budgets that have had less of an impact than what we have presented, and this will be no different. Trust and communication have been and will continue to be the keys to our success.

Please take a few moments to read through the project scope. We have additional information including pictures of some of the general maintenance items on our website, <http://www.westgenesee.org>.

A second proposition will authorize the District to establish a reserve fund to replace the turf field at the High School. This reserve will not be funded at the time of this vote but will be funded over the course of the next 7-10 years through budgetary savings, grants, and other monies as they become available. This reserve fund will be allowed to contain no more than \$700,000; which will be enough to replace the field when the time comes.

If you have any questions you can give me a call directly at 315-487-4562, send me an e-mail at cbrown@westgenesee.org or attend one of our meetings that are listed to the right.

The project vote will be on November 12, 2013 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the lobby of our high school auditorium.

Thank you again for your continued support!

Many Chances to Attend Informational Meetings

The West Genesee Board of Education will present a public referendum to voters on November 12, 2013. There will be many opportunities before the vote to attend informational meetings that will address all of the items covered by this capital project.

Informational meetings for parents and residents are scheduled as follows:

October 1 – Split Rock PTO meeting, Split Rock Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.

October 2 - Board of Education meeting, WGHS Library, 7:00 p.m.

October 9 – Onondaga Road PTA meeting, Onondaga Road Library, 6:30 p.m.

October 10 – Stonehedge PTA meeting, Stonehedge Library, 6:30 p.m.

October 15 – WGHS PTSO meeting, WGHS Library, 7:00 p.m.

October 16 – District Council meeting, WGHS Library, 6:00 p.m.

October 16 – Board of Education meeting, WGHS Library, 7:00 p.m.

October 22 – WGMS PTA meeting, WGMS Library, 6:30 p.m.

November 4 – East Hill PTA meeting, East Hill Library, 6:30 p.m.

November 6 - Board of Education meeting, WGHS Library, 7:00 p.m.



New construction consists of additional special education spaces and adding new libraries to Onondaga Road and East Hill Elementary Schools (pictured at left). Current libraries will be converted back to cafeterias so that students will no longer need to eat in their classrooms.

Project Description

East Hill Elementary School

- Building Security
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone system
- Library Addition / Cafeteria Reconfiguration
- Air Conditioning - Full Building
- Playground Replacement
- Restroom Upgrades
- Site, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and General Construction Repairs and Upgrades
- Emergency Generator – If funding is available after all other work.

Onondaga Road Elementary School

- Building Security
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone System
- Library Addition / Cafeteria Reconfiguration
- Air Conditioning - Full Building
- Playground Enhancements
- Restroom Upgrades
- Site, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and General Construction Repairs and Upgrades
- Emergency Generator – If funding is available after all other work.

Split Rock Elementary

- Building Security
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone System
- Air Conditioning - Remaining Building
- Restroom & Locker Room Upgrades
- Playground Enhancements
- Site, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and General Construction Repairs and Upgrades
- Emergency Generator – If funding is available after all other work.

Stonehedge Elementary School

- Building Security
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone System
- Air Conditioning - Full Building
- Playground Enhancements
- Restroom Upgrades
- Site, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and General Construction Repairs and Upgrades
- Emergency Generator – If funding is available after all other work.

Camillus Middle School

- Building Security
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone System
- Gymnasium Bleacher Replacement
- Elevator Replacement
- Site, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and General Construction Repairs and Upgrades
- Emergency Generator

West Genesee Middle School

- Building Security
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone System
- Boiler Upgrades
- Locker Room & Gymnasium Bleacher Replacement
- Roof Repairs
- Site, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and General Construction Repairs and Upgrades
- Emergency Generator

High School

- Building Security
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone System
- Locker Room & Gymnasium Bleacher Replacement
- Pool Repairs & Upgrades
- Roof Repairs
- Site, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and General Construction Repairs and Upgrades
- Emergency Generator

Transportation Center

- Replace Three (3) In-ground Lifts
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone System
- Site, Drainage, Door and Masonry Repairs and Upgrades

District Office

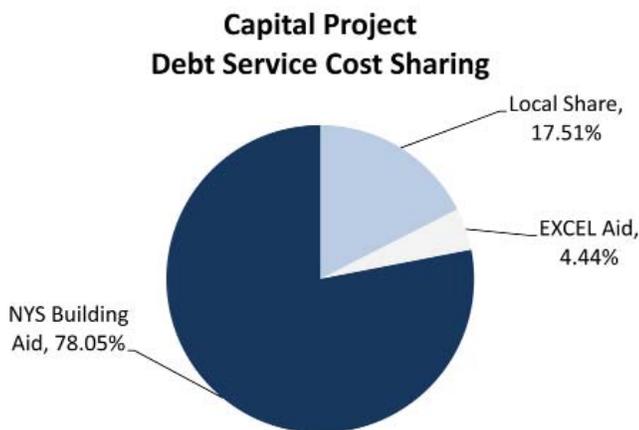
- Technology Upgrades / IP Phone System
The work below will only be completed after all other work has been completed and there is sufficient funding available:
- Drainage Upgrades; Replace Carpet; Storage Facility

How the Referendum is Funded

Total Project Cost: \$24,305,200

How will the referendum be funded?

The proposed 16 year bond issue will fund the project costs. State Aid and EXCEL Aid will account for 82.49% of the new debt service. The local share will be 17.51% of the total new debt service and be paid over 16 years.



Local cost is minimized as a result of:

- **State Building Aid / Incentive Building Aid**
- **EXCEL Aid**

To Access Up-To-Date Information about the District, Check Out Our Web Site Along with the Following Social Networking Sites:



Twitter



Facebook



Blogger

You can access these social networking links directly from westgenesee.org.

Question and Answers

Q: What are the voters being asked to approve?

A: The District is seeking to do technology and security upgrades, small additions to East Hill and Onondaga Road Elementary Schools, playground replacements and upgrades at the elementary buildings and repair and maintenance work in all of our buildings.

Q: What impact does the new debt service payment for this project have on the tax rate?

A: The estimated tax rate increase to support this project will be 6 cents or less per thousand of assessed value beginning with the 2015-16 school year and continue for sixteen years. The following factors have helped to minimize the cost to the local tax payers:

- 82.5% state building-aid ratio
- EXCEL Aid of \$1,033,668 available for technology and security enhancements
- Existing debt service from prior projects will be dropping off to offset a portion of the new debt service coming on the books.

Q: Why is it advantageous to undertake this project now?

A: Currently the incentive building aid of 10% still exists. EXCEL Aid is still available for qualifying project expenditures.

Q: Why is this project necessary?

A: The technology improvements will help us to better serve student needs in our buildings. The security enhancements will provide a safer learning environment. The repairs, maintenance and upgrades will help to protect the large investment that we have made in our facilities through previous projects. Some areas in this project, such as locker rooms and rest rooms were never addressed in previous projects and have reached the end of their useful life.

Q: When will the project begin?

A: The project is tentatively scheduled to begin during the summer of 2014, pending the approval of plans and specifications by the State Education Department.

Q: Why establish a reserve to replace the turf field and how will it work?

A: The turf field has been very well maintained over the past seven years but will need to be replaced within the next seven to ten years. This proposition will authorize the District to establish the reserve fund, it does not provide funding for the reserve fund. The reserve will be funded over the next seven to ten years with funds that are made available through budgetary savings identified from our general fund. The funding cannot exceed the voter approved amount of \$700,000.

WG Communicator

REFERENDUM NEWSLETTER 2013

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Project Overview

This project will address security, technology, energy efficiency, repair, updating, and new construction. The areas impacted with this project were NOT included in the previous District Capital Projects prior to 2004.

- Security updates involve installation or reconfiguration of security systems both inside and outside of buildings
- Technology updates include wireless access for all buildings, faster Internet, Internet phone systems, and changes to the Internet filter.
- Repairs, renovations, energy efficiencies and updates include: playgrounds, parking lots, locker room at the high school, pool, roofs, boilers, windows, emergency power generators at the high school and both middle schools, and air conditioning to all buildings. A detailed list by building is available online on the referendum page which is available from the quick links section of the home page.



Pictured above is the current West Genesee Middle School Parent Drop-Off loop which will be reconfigured as part of the capital project.

Referendum Vote:

Date: November 12, 2013

Time: 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Place: West Genesee High School Auditorium Lobby

For schedule of Board of Education and school presentations, see page one.

Voter Qualifications:

18 years of age or older • U.S. citizen •
District Resident for 30 days

Please note: We will be using a computerized registration system. However, the voting will take place on the mechanical voting machines that have been used in the past.