



PRATTSBURGH CSD

CAPITAL PROJECT 2020

CONTINUING OUR INVESTMENT IN OUR DISTRICT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How was this project developed?

A. Prattsburgh Central School District completed a State-required Building Condition Survey (BCS) on schedule with state requirements. This survey is conducted every five years and identified capital improvements that fall into urgent, timely and long-range improvement categories that are both recommended and necessary. Building off of our most recent assessment and our previous Capital Project, the District spoke to faculty throughout the District to create a master list of items needing attention, that was eventually reduced to this current proposal.

Q. How will my taxes be affected by this project?

A. Because the District is paying off a bond before any new bond payments would be made on this project, this project will have no additional tax impact on the community. The project will be fully funded by leveraging New York State Building Aid, managing debt service payments and using the District's existing capital reserve funds.

Q. Where is the funding coming from? Can it be used for other expenses the District has?

A. The State is providing the District with 88.1% aid for this project which will be locked in following a successful referendum. This is a specific type of funding that can only be used for buildings and grounds renovations. That being said, having this aid will allow the District to make necessary maintenance and building upgrades without affecting our annual budget.

Q. What if the amount of State Aid the District receives changes due to the current situation?

A. With a successful referendum, the formula of aid that PCSD receives is locked in. Postponing the vote could create an opening for state funding to change and risk the feasibility of the Capital Project scope items.

It is also important to note that only with a successful referendum, if anything does change in the near future, the District can postpone the start of the project or re-strategize priority items without jeopardizing funding. This would mean that the project would still have no additional tax impact on the community.

Q. Why is this project important to do now?

A. School WILL continue and our students and community deserve a top-notch facility. The safety and HVAC upgrades are necessary, the educational upgrades are essential for our students, and the athletic upgrades will enhance our students' overall educational experience. With the timing of existing debt coming off our budget, we are able to replace it with new debt for this project and in turn help stabilize the budget and maximize state aid. This, along with the Capital Reserve contribution, we have the luxury to get all of this work done without raising taxes.





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Q. With schools closed, why is the District planning another project? Will the COVID-19 situation affect this project?

A. While schools are closed now, it is important to continue the process of maintaining our facilities so when this situation is over, we won't be behind or miss the chance to keep our budget stable and maximize state aid. We are taking precautions to ensure the safety of our students, staff and the community by releasing information about this project digitally as well as postponing the vote until after things normalize. This project should not be affected by the current situation as construction is not planned to begin until 2021 and the architectural firm designing this project is still in operation.

Q. Do you anticipate another project any time soon?

A. Some school districts complete less frequent but larger projects. The Prattsburgh CSD Board has historically completed more frequent but smaller projects in order to continuously stay on top of health, safety, energy conservation, and instructional needs.

The school board understands that maintaining several hundred thousand square feet of school buildings, dozens of acres of grounds for athletic fields, and hundreds of plumbing, heating, air circulation, and electrical devices requires continuous attention. Because we are a "high need" school district, our state building aid offsets most of the costs of maintaining our buildings when renovations are part of an approved capital project.

Q. Areas of the District are newly renovated. Why do we need another project?

A. While some of our facilities were recently renovated, this project focuses on rectifying many underlying issues in our buildings and areas not yet renovated. There are spaces across the District that have not been touched in many years and need to be upgraded to ensure the health, safety and success of students and staff. We currently have the opportunity to enhance the investment made by the community in our facilities at no additional tax impact.

Q. How will this project, upon completion, benefit our students, faculty, staff and community?

A. The proposed project is a needs-based plan that was developed to address health and safety issues as well as building infrastructure needs. Plans include replacement of items that have the potential to fail and/or are substandard as they are at the end of their warranties or expected useful life. Upgrading these items now will not only provide better experiences for students and staff, it will allow for our facilities to run at maximum efficiency.

Q. What if I did not receive an absentee ballot?

A. Absentee ballots will be sent by mail to qualified voters. If you do not receive a ballot but meet the voter eligibility, please call the District Clerk, Roxanne Elward at 607-522-6211.

Q. How can I find out more about this project?

A. There will be an information virtual meeting on Monday, June 1st at 6pm to discuss the annual budget and capital project votes. Also please visit our Facebook and Twitter pages or call the District office at 607-522-6211.