



Questions and Answers about the proposed building project referendum

Q. How were the renovation project needs determined?

A. In January 2013, the Guilderland Central School District Board of Education authorized the formation of a committee to examine the needs of the district's facilities with particular emphasis on the following areas:

- Renovations in electrical, heating and ventilation, plumbing, roofing, and site work as well as addressing current State Education Department building code requirements at each of the district's seven school buildings and at the maintenance and transportation facilities;
- District wide technology improvements including infrastructure upgrades as well as enhanced instructional opportunities in technology for students particularly through wireless access; and
- Health, safety and security improvements including enhanced visitor access controls at our seven school buildings.

Guided by the district's architects, the Facilities Committee—made up of parents/community volunteers with backgrounds in construction and facilities, teachers and district staff, administrators, and Board members—met throughout the winter and spring to assess conditions within the seven school buildings. Committee members toured facilities and talked with staff during that time, as well.

Incorporating a thorough consideration of existing district resources as well as the current and future needs of our students, the committee presented its final recommendations for action to the Board of Education in early July. A resolution was then passed by the Board on September 10, 2013, establishing that a building project referendum will be put before district voters later this fall.

Q. What makes these projects our highest priority?

A. The goal of the proposed building project is to protect the community's long-term investment in its schools by addressing necessary internal and external improvements. Items identified for attention by the committee focus primarily on protecting the health and safety of students, staff and visitors; addressing products, systems, or equipment that is at or near the end of its life expectancy; and replacing failing or deteriorating building components.

Much like any home, schools face a repetitive cycle of replacements: roof, furnace, hot water heater, doors, windows, driveway pavement, etc. With seven large school buildings, there will always be periodic facility needs to be addressed just to properly maintain and preserve the community's original investment. Many of the items identified by the Facilities Committee as requiring attention are health and safety concerns (ventilation, flooring, traffic patterns, etc.), or through their failure, have the potential to disrupt the educational process (heating systems and roofs in need of replacement, upgrades to electrical systems, etc.). These needs will not go away.

In addition, items such as security cameras, door swipe card readers, and lobby modifications to enhance visitor access controls are necessary upgrades to ensure the safety of students and staff at all levels.

With respect to technology, the plan outlined by the Facilities Committee will enable the district to institute upgrades to its technology infrastructure and provide enhanced instructional opportunities for students district-wide well beyond the capacity of its annual budget.

The projects identified on the second proposition—renovations and upgrades to the high school auditorium

and light pole replacement on the high school football field/track—address the need to continue to provide for quality learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Q. How much will the proposed building project cost me?

A. For district residents owning a home or property with an assessed value of \$246,500 (the median assessment in the Town of Guilderland), the estimated tax increase per year for the proposed projects based on current information is:

- Proposition #1: \$65 (26.1 cents/\$1,000 assessed value)
- Proposition #2: \$3 (1.3 cents/\$1,000 assessed value)
- Total for Propositions #1 & #2: \$68 (27.4 cents/\$1,000 assessed value)

Q. Where can I get additional information on the proposal?

A. For more information, please visit the district website at www.guilderlandschools.org. There you will find the complete Facilities Committee report to the Board of Education as well as other important information about the vote. In addition, you can view the Facilities Committee report to the Board on TWC Channel 16 each Saturday at 12 p.m. and every Monday at 7 p.m. (thru Nov. 14). A special edition district newsletter will also be sent out to all residents in late October.

District residents are also invited to attend a community meeting on Tuesday, October 29 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Guilderland High School LGI to hear a brief presentation about the referendum and to participate in small group discussions relating to various aspects of the project. Visit the district website to learn more about this meeting and to RSVP.

Board of Education

Barbara Fraterrigo, President
Allan Simpson, Vice President

Catherine Barber, Jennifer Charron,
Christine Hayes, Rose Levy
Colleen O'Connell, Judy Slack,
Gloria Towle-Hilt

Marie Wiles, Ph.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

Published by the
Guilderland Central School District
in cooperation with the Capital Region
BOCES Communications Service.
Amy McGeady/Editor



Building Project Referendum



Keeping our children
Safe & Sound

VOTE DATE/TIME

November 14, 2013
Polls open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
at the elementary school in
your attendance zone.





Questions? Please stop by:

Board of Education members and school leaders will be on-hand at each of the following meetings to talk with community members about the upcoming building project referendum:

September 18

- Guilderland Elementary School PTA meeting, 9 a.m.

September 23

- Farnsworth Middle School PTA meeting, 7 p.m.

September 30

- Guilderland High School PTSA meeting, 7 p.m.

October 1

- Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m. at GHS LGI

October 7

- PTA Council meeting, 7 p.m. at District Office

October 8

- Westmere Elementary School PTA meeting, 6 p.m.
- Altamont Elementary School PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

October 9

- Lynnwood Elementary School PTA meeting, 8:45 a.m.
- Pine Bush Elementary School PTA meeting, 9 a.m.

October 16

- Guilderland Elementary School PTA meeting, 7 p.m.

October 21

- Farnsworth Middle School PTA meeting, 7 p.m.

October 22

- Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m. at GHS LGI

October 29

- District-wide community meeting, 7 p.m. at GHS LGI

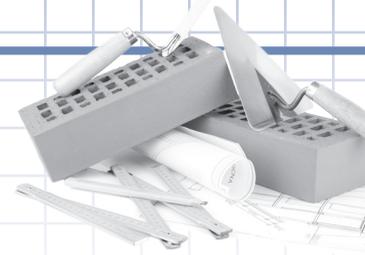
November 4

- PTA Council meeting, 7 p.m. at District Office

November 6

- Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m. at GHS LGI

Voters to decide on \$18.2 million building project propositions



On Thursday, November 14, 2013, district residents will go to the polls to decide on a \$17,324,650 bond referendum for voter approval. The plan calls for upgrades to aging infrastructure in the district's seven school buildings and improvements for safety, security and technology systems district-wide.

A separate proposition will also be put before voters that day in the amount of \$846,300 for renovations and upgrades to the high school auditorium as well as to provide for the replacement of light poles on the high school football field/track. *The passage of the smaller proposition is contingent upon the passage of the larger referendum.*

The projects up for public vote on Nov. 14 will enable GCSD to continue to provide safe and well-maintained facilities to support student learning and achievement, and will address many of the district's long-range needs.

The proposed \$17,324,650 building project referendum includes the following components:

- ▲ **\$14,032,950 for renovations to electrical, heating and ventilation, roofing, plumbing and site systems throughout the district's seven school buildings.**

This facet of the project will address the following:

- Roof replacement
- Parking lot paving
- Ventilation systems

- Window rehabilitation
- Soffit replacement
- Traffic patterns and bus parking
- Doors and ADA-compliant door hardware
- Floor replacement
- Kitchen equipment
- Boiler replacement and upgrades
- Building temperature control systems
- Water main piping replacement
- Electrical panel and circuit upgrades

- ▲ **\$1,483,000 devoted to safety and security improvements centered around effectively controlling visitor access and enhancing classroom security.**

This facet of the project will address the following:

- Lobby modifications at all school buildings, with extensive changes at Lynnwood Elementary School and Guilderland High School
- Additional security cameras
- Additional door access swipe card readers
- Additional classroom and office locksets/keying
- Visitor management and tracking software
- Computer server upgrades

- ▲ **\$1,808,700 for technology infrastructure and program upgrades to enhance instructional opportunities for students.**

This facet of the project will address the following:

- Additional mobile labs

- Upgrades to network switches
- Wireless access points for each classroom
- District-wide replacement of an uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) with battery backup
- Classroom technology upgrades

The proposed \$846,300 referendum includes the following components:

- ▲ **\$553,800 for renovations and upgrades to the high school auditorium**

This facet of the project will address the following:

- Replacement of auditorium seating, including the addition of ADA-compliant seating access
- Lighting upgrades to improve light levels and increase energy efficiency
- Sound system upgrades

- ▲ **\$292,500 for high school football field/track light pole replacement**

This facet of the project will address the following:

- Replace wooden light poles that are 20+ years old with new metal poles mounted in concrete for safety and durability
- Current light poles are not mounted in concrete and are a safety concern due to their age and construction
- Light fixtures would also be replaced