

Schenectady

Winter 2007
Committed to
teaching and
learning...
one child at a time

City School District

A national award
winning district



Inside...

▶ PAGE 2

No cost to local
taxpayers

▶ PAGE 2

What happens if
voters do NOT
support the
project?

▶ PAGE 3

Project
highlights from
around the
district

▶ PAGE 4

Polling places

Voter Registration

▶ All voters must be registered with the Schenectady County Board of Elections before 5 p.m. on the day of the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or on the day before the vote if the ballot is to be picked up. All absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote.

▶ Questions? Call the district clerk at 370-8100 ext. 150.

Proposed building project to go before voters on Jan. 30

\$48.2 million project would not increase local school taxes

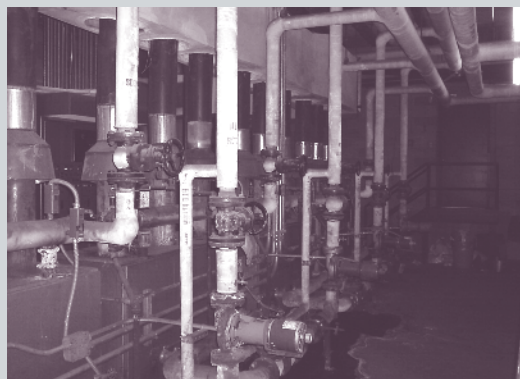
On Tuesday, Jan. 30, residents of the Schenectady City School District will go to the polls to decide on a proposed \$48.2 million district-wide capital project that will provide many structural improvements and updates to 14 district buildings.

Much of the work included in the project includes safety and security updates, handicapped accessibility improvements, modernizing heating systems and replacing roofs.

Superintendent Eric Ely described the proposal as mostly "brick and mortar" type projects.

"This project will allow us to replace things like roofs, heating systems and windows," Ely said. "These are repairs that help provide a healthier environment for our children."

continued on page 2



District officials estimate that replacing boilers and related infrastructure, such as the boiler piping shown above at Oneida Middle School, will result in more comfortable learning environments and improved energy efficiency. District-wide, the project calls for the replacement of 18 boilers and the roofs of several schools, which officials estimate will help the district save an average of \$175,000 annually.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Financial Impact

- Total Cost: \$48,219,000
- Total State Aid: \$48,219,000 (\$40,656,000 in traditional state aid, plus \$7,563,000 in EXCEL funding)
- Tax Increase: \$0

Project Highlights

- Safety and security improvements and updates
- Replacement of 18 boilers
- Fire alarm systems modernized district-wide
- Construction of three elevators and renovations for handicapped accessible restrooms
- Restoration of clock tower and slate roof at Mont Pleasant Middle School
- Cafeteria addition at King magnet school
- Classroom additions at Paige and Zoller schools

More Information

For more information on the capital project, log onto www.schenectady.k12.ny.us or call 370-8100 ext. 137 or 149.

Don't Forget to Vote!
Tuesday, Jan. 30
Noon-9 p.m.



WINTER
2007

continued from page 1

Voters to decide on \$48.2 million proposal

The proposed work is a continuation of a larger plan that began with the \$30.5 million project approved by voters in 2004.

“This project addresses our critical needs in several buildings that need updating,” Ely said.

The proposed work includes:

- » Replacement of 18 boilers. This will increase the energy efficiency and dependability of heating systems across the district.
- » The modernization of fire alarm systems district-wide.
- » Replacement of six roofs. This will reach the district’s goal of having new roofs on all school buildings.
- » Renovations for handicapped accessible restrooms. This will provide increased accessibility in nine school buildings.
- » Many safety and security improvements district-wide.

- » Renovation of auditoriums at the high school and middle schools.
- » Restoration of the clock tower and slate roof at Mont Pleasant.
- » Cafeteria addition at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet School.
- » Classroom additions at Paige and Zoller schools.
- » Athletic facility improvements and updates.

What happens if voters do NOT support the project?

Much of the work included in the proposal is work that must be done in the coming years in order to keep our buildings operating safely, efficiently and up to code.

Some of the things the capital project would do are:

- Repair and replace leaking roofs;
- Install elevators and make other improvements to make our schools accessible to persons with disabilities and bring our buildings into compliance;
- Make electrical and plumbing improvements to meet code and new technology needs;
- Replace windows and boilers, many of which are original and outdated; and

“This project addresses our critical needs in several buildings that need updating.”

- Eric Ely
Superintendent

No cost to local taxpayers

The proposed project, if approved, will not increase school taxes in Schenectady.

This is possible because of two things. First, the district currently receives 96.8 percent building aid on approved projects from the NYS Education Department. Secondly, a new form of state building aid called EXCEL aid (Expanding Children’s Education and Learning) has made \$7.5 million available to Schenectady schools.

The EXCEL aid was included in the 2006-07 state budget, however it was not announced by the NYS Education Department until October. This funding is SEPARATE from the 96.8 percent building aid the district currently receives and it will most likely not be available after this budget year.

Using these two forms of state aid, the district can finance \$48.2 million worth of building projects with NO COST to local taxpayers because:

- State EXCEL aid would pay \$7,563,000 of the total project. This would cover what is usually the local taxpayers’ share of renovation projects and then some.
- Regular state building aid would pay the remaining \$40,656,000.

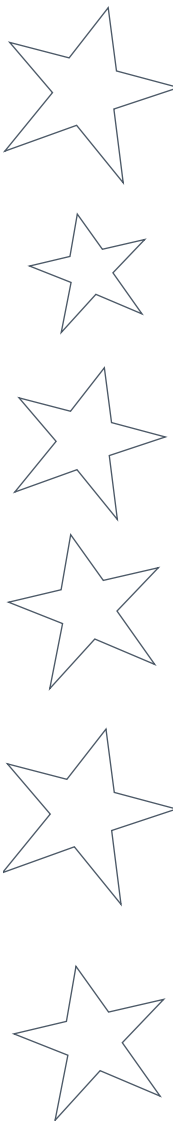
Interest payments will be offset by retiring debt, state aid on interest payments and interest earnings on invested funds, as well as a substantial savings in energy costs due to the replacement infrastructure such as boilers, roofs and windows across the district. District officials have estimated that the district will save \$175,000 a year in energy costs.

- Replace antiquated and inefficient heating systems.

The district is slated to receive more than \$7.5 million in EXCEL funding (this one-time funding is earmarked specifically for the Schenectady City School District), and is eligible to receive 96.8 percent in traditional state building aid (for more on this, see above).

This unique opportunity allows the district to make these improvements at no cost to the taxpayers of Schenectady.

If the proposed project is **NOT** approved by voters on Jan. 30, many of these improvements and upgrades will have to be made using money from the general fund budget, which could mean raising taxes.



Project highlights from around the district

Elmer Avenue School

Elmer Avenue School is proposed to receive a small, multi-story addition that will include an elevator and handicap accessible restrooms. Other proposed work includes:

- Replacement of the gymnasium roof;
- Relocation of the library to the third floor;
- Construction of wheelchair accessible restrooms in each kindergarten classroom;
- Installation of new exterior doors on the gym building;
- Renovation of the library stairs;
- Modernization of the fire alarm system; and
- Replacement of failing mechanical piping.

Hamilton Elementary School

The proposed work at Hamilton School includes:

- Renovation of the cafeteria bathrooms on the ground floor;
- Renovation of the south corridor on the ground floor;
- Replacement of the existing boilers;
- Replacement of the hot water system;
- Bathroom ventilation improvements; and
- Minor upgrades to the intercom and security systems.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet School

King School would receive a small, approximately 1,000 square foot, single-story addition to house a new cafeteria. Other proposed work includes:

- Relocation of the main office to the existing entry area;
- Reconstruction of the existing office area for use as instructional space;
- Upgrades to the existing PA system; and
- Reconstruction of existing sidewalks and parking areas.

Paige Elementary School

Paige School would receive a new six-classroom addition. The proposed addition will be one story and approximately 6,000 square feet. The project would also include minor site work.

Pleasant Valley Academy

Proposed work at Pleasant Valley School includes the replacement of the existing roof, the existing boilers and the existing domestic hot water system. Existing kindergarten classrooms would receive handicap accessible restrooms where not currently provided. Other work includes masonry cleaning and repairs.

Van Corlaer Elementary School

Proposed work includes:

- Full replacement of the existing roof;
- Replacement of all exterior doors;
- Restoration of the front entry stairs; and
- Replacement of the existing boilers.

Woodlawn Elementary School

Woodlawn School is proposed to have a minor renovation project, which will include the installation of an elevator within the existing building and the replacement of the existing roof. Proposed site work includes the renovation of the upper parking lot and bus lane, including walks, lighting and a wheelchair ramp to the school entrance.

Yates Magnet School

Work at Yates School is expected to include:

- Replacement of the existing domestic hot water system, and
- Replacement of plumbing fixtures throughout the building.

Zoller Elementary School

Work at Zoller includes the construction of a new six-classroom addition at Zoller School. The proposed addition will be one story and approximately 6,000 square feet. Other proposed work

will include renovations to restrooms throughout the building and security system upgrades. Proposed site work includes the reconstruction of the front bus lane, visitors' parking and associated walks and lighting in front of the building.

Central Park Middle School

Central Park Middle School is proposed to receive a small, multi-story addition that will include an accessible entry and elevator. Other work includes:

- Replacement of the existing roof;
- Repairs to existing masonry;
- Renovation of the existing auditorium;
- Minor interior modifications for handicap accessibility;
- Replacement of existing gymnasium ventilation units; and
- Replacement of the existing boilers and the reconstruction of the boiler room.

Site work is to include restoration of the front and side steps and construction of additional steps and retaining walls to control erosion between the building and playfield. Rear parking areas may also be reconstructed.

Mont Pleasant Middle School

Work at Mont Pleasant would include:

- Restoration of the slate roof and clock tower;
- Renovation of the existing auditorium;
- Renovation of some existing toilet rooms;
- Replacement of the domestic hot water system;
- Replacement of the existing PA system; and
- Replacement of the existing fire alarm system.

Oneida Middle School

Work at Oneida would include:

- Replacement of the existing roof;
- Renovation of the existing auditorium;
- Renovations of locker rooms and some existing restrooms;
- Replacement of the domestic hot water system; and
- Replacement of the existing boilers. Boiler work is expected to include the reconstruction of the boiler room.

Career Center at Steinmetz

Steinmetz is proposed to have a minor renovation project, which will include limited renovation of restrooms, replacement of courtyard security grilles with gates, masonry stair tower reconstruction, and the installation of site lighting. Mechanical work is expected to be limited to the replacement of the existing boilers.

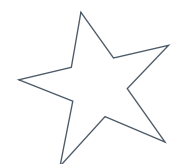
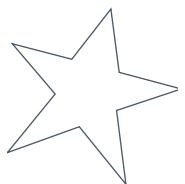
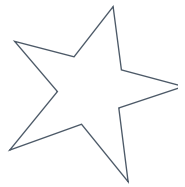
Schenectady High School

The proposal includes two separate additions to the high school:

- A 5,000 square foot lecture center with new main entry at the front of the building; and
- A 2,500 square foot staff and student entry at the rear of the main building.

Other work includes:

- A full renovation of the existing science department;
- A limited renovation of the existing auditorium;
- Restroom and locker room renovations for handicap accessibility;
- Replacement of ventilation equipment in several areas within the building;
- Replacement of the domestic hot water system;
- Reconstruction of the staff parking area including the creation of a new perimeter bus drop off area and installation of a storm water management detention system;
- The reconfiguration of front visitor parking areas and entry plaza;
- Athletic field reconstruction; and
- Campus perimeter security fencing.





WINTER
2007

Wondering where to vote?

School Election District	Polling Places	City of Schenectady Election Districts Within School Election District
1	City Hall, 105 Jay Street (Franklin Street Entrance)	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Yates Magnet School, Salina St. (Cafeteria Entrance from Parking Lot)	5, 6, 7, 12
3	Zoller School, Lancaster Street	8, 9, 10
4	Schenectady High School (gym) (Student Parking Lot (fine arts wing))	11, 17, 18
5	Elmer Avenue School (Eastern Avenue Entrance)	15, 16, 28, 13
6	Faith Methodist Church Corner No. Brandywine & Eastern Avenues	19, 27
7	Central Park Middle School Elm Street	22, 23, 24, 25
8	Paige School, Elliott Avenue	20, 46
9	Woodlawn School, Wells Avenue	14, 21, 47, 48
10	M.L. King Magnet School (Stanley St. Entrance)	26, 29, 30, 31, 32
11	Mont Pleasant Middle School Forest Road	33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 & Town of Rotterdam residents of school district #10
12	Van Corlaer Elementary School Guilderland Avenue	41, 42, 43, 44, 45

▶ Board of Education

Jeff Janiszewski, President
Warren R. Snyder, Vice President

Linda Bellick
Maxine Brisport
James R. Casino
John F. Mitchell III
Lisa Russo

▶ Administration

Eric D. Ely, Superintendent

Assistant Superintendents:

Sharon Therriault
William Roberts, Ed.D
Arnold A. Spadafora, Associate Superintendent
Michael San Angelo, Ed.D

**Schenectady City School
District** 108 Education Drive

Schenectady, New York 12303
518-370-8100 Fax: 518-370-8173
www.schenectady.k12.ny.us

Editor: Adrienne Leon

**Residential Customer
Postal Patron**

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 108
Schenectady, NY