



Port Jervis City School District

Special Vote - December 16 *at a glance*

Questions and answers about the proposed **&A** *building project & capital reserve fund*

Capital Project II Referendum

Why a referendum now?

The nearly-completed \$14.6 million capital improvement project allowed the district to address its most immediate renovation and repair needs. While our schools are in a much better state than they were two years ago, many problems still need to be addressed. The availability of an additional allocation of EXCEL aid is providing Port Jervis with another opportunity to use state funds to offset the local share of other needed building renovations.

What is EXCEL aid?

New York State established the EXCEL (Expanding our Children’s Education & Learning) program to provide school districts with additional funding for specific types of school renovation projects. This is the same type of aid that funded our district’s recent capital improvement project. State officials have indicated EXCEL aid will not be affected by state budget cuts, but it is highly unlikely this type of aid will be offered to districts in the near future.

How will the Capital Project II be funded?

The Capital Project II would be funded entirely with state building aid and the balance of the district’s allocation of EXCEL aid. If approved, the needed building improvements would be made at NO additional cost to local taxpayers. The project will actually save money since the new replacement windows and ventilation systems will increase energy efficiency and cut fuel costs.

How was the Capital Project II Referendum developed?

Looking to the future, the Board of Education recently approved the formation of a Master Plan Committee – comprised of community members, parents, and district staff – to develop a comprehensive facilities plan. The committee is currently working with CS Arch and SAVIN architectural management firms to examine the state of the district school buildings in order to develop strategies to address future building needs. The committee’s first recommendation was to take advantage of the remaining allocation of state EXCEL aid to address health, safety, and security issues that need immediate attention. Future recommendations will not impact any of the proposed referendum renovations.

When will the work begin?

If voters approve the proposed projects, work will start in the Summer of 2010.

See other side for information on the capital reserve fund proposal

Proposed Projects

Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary School

Health, Safety & Security

- Replace Public Address System
- Install new window units
- Make upgrades to emergency/exit lighting

Building Integrity

- Upgrade Automation System for HVAC

Port Jervis Middle School

Health, Safety & Security

- Replace Damaged Sidewalks
- Electric room upgrades
- Upgrade emergency/exit lighting

Port Jervis High School & Anna S. Kuhl Elementary School

Health, Safety & Security

- Add safety vestibules to both school entrances to improve security
- Replace unit ventilators
- Make upgrades to emergency/exit lighting

Building Integrity

- Replace leaky windows in both buildings with energy efficient replacements



Capital Project II Referendum Q & A

Proposal to establish a capital reserve fund

Why does the district need to create this type of fund?

The district needs to prepare for the future. A reserve account would allow the district to save money over time for the specific purpose of constructing a new school. The account - and the interest it would accrue over 10 years - would save taxpayers money by eliminating or greatly reducing the amount needed to finance a new school.

Where would the money for the proposed fund come from?

The capital reserve account would be funded by excess funds available at year end or by a budget line item. At this time, no funds have been allocated to a reserve account.

Why does the district want to save money now - before the size, location, and grade-level configuration are determined?

The Board of Education and administration are concerned that a new school will be needed in the near future. The Sullivan Avenue School, built in 1918, was closed in 2004 due to structural and code concerns. Port Jervis Middle School, built four years after the Sullivan Avenue School, is now facing many of the same architectural and educational space issues. The school board wants to be prepared in order to minimize the taxpayer impact.

How would the proposed fund benefit our community?

The fund would allow the district to set aside funds, when available, for the specific purpose of offsetting the local taxpayer share. The goal is to save enough funds, over time, to minimize the cost of building a new school.

Why doesn't the district use unallocated funds to reduce the annual budget?

The district already uses a managed amount of unallocated funds at the end of each year to help offset taxes for the coming budget year. This process will continue if the Capital Reserve account is established.

Viewer Information

Polls Open

Tuesday, Dec. 16 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Election District #1

Huguenot Fire House

Election District #2

Deerpark
Municipal Building 2

Election District #3

Sparrowbush
Fire House

Election District #4

Port Jervis Middle School

Where can I get more information?

Administrators will be discussing the Capital Project II Referendum and the proposal to establish a capital reserve fund at public meetings throughout the district in November and December. The latest information is also posted on the district's website: www.pjschools.org and on cable Channel 20. For questions or concerns, contact the Assistant Superintendent for Business, Lorelei Case, at 858-3180.

Need more information?

Please join us...

Informational Meetings

Thursday, November 6

- Board of Education meeting, PJHS Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 18

- HBE PTA meeting, Library, 6:30 p.m.
- High School PTSA, Room 123, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 20

- Middle School PTA, Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, December 1

- Deerpark Town meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10

- Farnum House, 1:30 p.m.
- ASK PTA meeting, Library, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 11

- Board of Education meeting, PJHS Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m.

All district residents will also receive detailed information within two weeks of the vote in a special edition of the **District Newsletter**.