

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Protecting Our Investment

The Project At A Glance

The following are the improvements that will be accomplished in this proposed project. Please note that the improvements listed below that are followed by an asterisk (*) will be accomplished pending available funding. Other EXCEL aid-eligible improvements may also be made pending the availability of funding.

District-wide Improvements

- Update telephone system with a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone system
- Boardmanville Elementary School Improvements
- Replacement of steel window lintels
- Restoration of exterior masonry

Ivers J. Norton Elementary School Improvements

- Relocation of the main office and music rooms to provide a secured visitors entrance for the building

*Washington West Elementary School **

- Replace outdated heating and ventilation system in the cafeteria

*Middle School**

- Replacement of failed glazing on the windows in the 1991 wing to enhance energy efficiency

*High School**

- Restoration and cleaning of stone coping (joints and facade) associated abatement of asbestos caulk and/or flashing
- Replacement of stone coping with metal coping on the building's parapet

The Olean City School District has a proud history of providing excellent programs and facilities for our children. This success is the result of thoughtful and measured improvement programs over the years that have been designed to protect the District's investments. Sometimes this means replacing items due to normal wear and tear, such as roofs and parking lots. Other projects are program related, such as upgrades to classrooms and technology infrastructure. The key is staying current with the latest program and facilities developments and taking advantage of the availability of state funding.

The Board of Education has decided to proceed with an EXCEL-aided project that will allow the Olean City School District to utilize the remaining \$743,724 of funding from New York State for the purpose of making upgrades in our district's safety, security, energy conservation and technology. The Board is concerned with the need to continue to provide safe and appropriate educational facilities for the students and employees of the District. In keeping with this focus, the EXCEL Aid will enable the District to enhance upon the current building project with no additional cost to the taxpayer. The project vote will be held on December 14, 2010.

Financial Impact

There will be no property tax impact related to this project. The district will use New York State EXCEL aid (special legislation funding in 2006) to pay for the project. EXCEL aid was allocated to school districts throughout New York in 2006, authorized through special legislation. Its purpose is to assist school districts with funding for specific building improvements that are related to safety, security, energy conservation and technology. EXCEL stands for – EXtending Children's Education and Learning. The building improvements proposed in this project all meet the criteria outlined in the EXCEL legislation. Our school district was originally allocated \$1,872,397 in EXCEL funding. For the current, on-going building project our district used \$1,128,673 to cover most of the local share costs. It is the district's plan to use the remaining \$743,724 in EXCEL aid to fund this project.

Public Informational Meeting

A District-wide public informational meeting will be held on December 7th at 6:00 PM in the Middle School Large Group Instruction (LGI) room. The Middle School is located at 401 Wayne Street in Olean. This meeting will include a presentation of the details of the proposed project, followed by a question and answer session.



***Vote Date:
Tuesday,
December 14, 2010***

Questions . . .

Q. How was the project developed and why is the district pursuing another project when the current project isn't completed yet?

A. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires school districts to complete a Building Condition Survey (BCS) every five years. The current, on-going project addresses many of the needed improvements that were identified in the District's last BCS. The project that will be voted on December 14th will address more of the improvement needs that were identified in our BCS. This proposed project will be paid for by NYSED with the remaining EXCEL aid, which will allow the district to make these improvements with no tax impact to our taxpayers.

Q. With the current New York State budget crisis, how are we certain that EXCEL aid will be available when we need it?

A. Access to the EXCEL funding in the future is being questioned throughout the State. Even though the 2006 Special Legislation which created the EXCEL aid program didn't have a deadline for the use of the funding by individual school districts, with a new Governor taking office in January and the need to cut spending as he has already pledged, the District felt that it would be prudent to lock in the remaining EXCEL funding before January to avoid the possibility of losing over \$740,000 of state funding to support upgrades to our facilities.

Q. One of the improvements in the proposed project is to update the District's telephone system with a district-wide Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone system. What are the advantages of such a system in our schools?

A. The District is including VOIP in the project primarily for security reasons. Not only will the VOIP system bring our District into the 21st Century for communications among all of our buildings, but it will also allow for faster and more secure communications among buildings in emergency situations. Currently our buildings are all interconnected by a series of individual, outside telephone lines. The new VOIP system will provide the District with a system that eliminates the need for outside telephone lines which will allow for a better quality digital service that can be maintained by the district's current IT staff. The ability of our IT staff to maintain the system will be an added benefit to providing a more secure system and will eliminate the need for and save the cost of the use of private telephone service companies to maintain our system.

Q. I noticed that on the list of proposed improvement activities, a number of the activities are followed by an asterisk (*) and it's indicated that these improvements may be made "pending availability of funding". Would you please explain that?

A. It is the intent of the District to construct as many of the listed improvements as possible with the remaining EXCEL funding from the state. Depending on the bidding/construction "climate" at the time that the project is bid, if there is an adequate amount of funding available to complete most or all of the improvements listed, then the District is required by law to include all of the proposed improvements in the wording on the ballot and in any publications that the district circulates to our voters.

Q. How can I learn more about the project?

A. A district-wide public information meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 7th at 6:00 PM in the Large Group Instruction Room (LGI) in the Middle School. The Middle School is located at 401 Wayne Street in Olean.

and
Answers

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.

Olean, NY 14760

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www.oleanschools.org

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Olean, NY 14760

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

VOTER INFORMATION

Vote Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Voting Times: 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Voting Place: Olean Middle School Music Suite, 401 Wayne Street, Olean, NY

Voter Eligibility: Citizen of U.S. At least 18 years of age, Must be a registered voter with the Cattaraugus County Board of Elections

Absentee ballots will be provided upon proper application to any qualified voter who will be unable to vote due to illness or physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration (unless incarcerated for conviction of a felony), travel outside the voter's county or city of residence for employment or business reasons, studies, or vacation on the day of the referendum. Absentee ballot applications are available in the District Office and must be completed and submitted back to the District Clerk, at the District Office. After the District Clerk reviews and approves the application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

The absentee ballot must then be returned to the District Clerk at the District Office by 5 PM on December 14th.

For project related questions please contact the Olean City School District Office at (716) 375-8018
410 West Sullivan Street, Olean, NY 14760

“Facilities Improvement Project -- Protecting Our Investment”