

# **Dobbs Ferry School District 2019 Capital Project FAQ Vote Tuesday, October 22, 2019 7:00am-9:00pm**

## **What is the Capital Project Proposal?**

On **Tuesday, October 22nd**, residents of the Dobbs Ferry School District will be asked to vote on an important Capital Project proposal for \$19,977,378 that will update and improve our School District facilities. Like many homeowners, the District needs to periodically invest in its “school home” to ensure that our buildings and grounds are safe, clean, code-compliant and conducive to teaching and learning. The Capital Project monies will allow us to make necessary facilities upgrades that are essential to keeping our buildings in top-notch condition, address important health and safety issues and update multi-use spaces. Many of these improvements will also enable the District and the community to use its school facilities on a 12-month basis. **This work will be completed without raising taxes.**

## **Why is the District having a bond referendum?**

A bond referendum asks the voters to decide if a school district will be authorized to issue bonds (to raise the funds) to upgrade and renovate the District’s facilities. A bond issue will enable the District to address projects that are too large to be funded through annual budgets, such as aging roofs, outdated electrical systems, inefficient HVAC systems, obsolete technology infrastructure and worn athletic fields. To pay for this important work, the District will need to:

1. Use the money that the District has already set aside in its Capital Reserve Improvements Fund (\$1.7 million) to help offset some of the project costs.
2. Finance the remaining cost (\$18,277,378) by issuing “bonds” (similar in concept to an individual taking a home equity loan).

## **How will the projects be financed and will it affect my taxes?**

The District is simultaneously retiring debt, taking advantage of low interest rates, bundling infrastructure and athletic projects to maximize State Aid and using money the District has set aside in its Capital Reserve Improvements Fund. This proposal allows the District to take advantage of the financial landscape at present to update and improve the Dobbs Ferry Schools without placing additional burden on taxpayers. The proposed Capital Project addresses vital School District needs and is tax neutral.

## **How were the projects selected?**

- The District regularly surveys and evaluates physical infrastructure to make timely repairs and upgrades and has identified significant work above the normal maintenance that needs to be addressed.
- These projects were evaluated and developed by the facilities committee of the Board of Education, consulting architects and engineers and the Board of Education during a year-long process.
- The District architects/engineers identified the work proposed for these projects as high-priority needs that would generate maximum aid reimbursement.
- The plan is designed to keep pace with the community and students’ growing educational, technology and recreational needs.

## What types of projects are included in the proposal?

- Performing Arts/Auditorium Projects:
  1. Install air conditioning in High School/Middle School Auditorium
  2. Upgrade sound system, theatrical lighting, stage riggings and ensure ADA compliance
- Facilities Infrastructure and Health and Safety Projects:
  1. Replace the Middle School roof and improve HVAC system (heating ventilation and AC)
  2. Add air conditioning in the remaining High School classrooms
  3. Create a new access to Old Croton Aqueduct from the High School/Middle School campus with secondary path leading to Aqueduct Trail, retaining wall and including storm water mitigation
  4. Build a new entry vestibule at Springhurst's main entrance to enhance safety and security
  5. Redesign the Springhurst Library Media Center to create a user friendly space that reflects a more contemporary children's library with flexible seating and collaborative spaces
  6. Construct a new sidewalk along entry drive to Springhurst ensuring students can walk to school safely
- Athletic Facilities Projects:
  1. Upgrade existing Softball/Baseball field at Springhurst

## What is the timeline for the projects?

October 2019	Community Vote October 22nd
November 2019-Spring 2020	Design phase
Spring 2020-Fall/Winter 2020	Submit design to New York State Education Department(NYSED)
December 2020	NYSED Approval (NYSED review times may vary)
January/February 2021	Bidding & Award
Spring 2021-Fall 2022	Construction

## Why is it important to vote?

Voter approval is required to move forward with the Capital Project and issue bonds. All Dobbs Ferry residents who are registered to vote with the Westchester County Board of Elections are eligible to vote.

**Note: If you are not registered to vote, you may register on Thursday, October 10th from 3:30pm-7:30pm in the High School Gymnasium lobby.**

### **Absentee Ballot Applications:**

Any registered community resident who has a valid reason for being unable to vote in person may pick up an Application for an Absentee Ballot in the District Office or download an application from the District website [www.dfsd.org](http://www.dfsd.org) under the BOE tab. **All applications must be mailed to the District Clerk no later than October 15, 2019, or delivered in person no later than 5:00pm on October 22, 2019.**

## How do I get more detailed information on the Capital Projects?

Please visit the School District website at [www.dfsd.org](http://www.dfsd.org) to review the 2019 Capital Project Recommendations (click on link in the SpotLight Section) as well as other important background information. Tune in to DFTV Channel 47 (Fios)/Channel 75 (Cablevision) to watch the "District Dialogue" show about the Capital Project improvements. If you have any specific questions, please email Superintendent Lisa Brady at [bradyl@dfs.org](mailto:bradyl@dfs.org) or Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, Ron Clamser at [clamser@dfs.org](mailto:clamser@dfs.org)