

## **HCS D Proposes \$8M Capital Project with Zero Additional Tax Impact on Local Taxpayers**

### **Project Overview**

The Hancock Central School District's Facilities Review Committee finalized components of the District's proposed 2019 Capital Project during its seventh meeting October 3. Committee members, Board of Education members, the Clerk of the Works, the Architect, and HCS D Administration attended the project's final meeting at the District Administration Office.

Although the proposed Capital Project will cost approximately \$8 million, HCS D Superintendent Terry Dougherty said, it will have **ZERO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT** on local property owners as it will be funded by state aid, capital reserve funds, and additional funding sources that the district has available. The proposed project would cover work at Hancock Elementary School, Hancock Middle/High School, Hancock's Bus Garage, and the Louise Adelia Read Memorial Library.

"There are no frills or extras in this project," BOE President Terry Whitt said. "It's a very straightforward but highly impactful project that addresses many pressing structural and programmatic needs while still ensuring maximum safety and security in the District. We're very pleased to offer this project at no additional tax impact to our taxpayers."

After reviewing the proposed project's scope and recommended plans one last time, the Committee finalized the following components of the proposed project.

**Hancock Elementary School:** Bottle-filler additions; Haz-Mat abatement; kitchen/serving/storage renovation; security enhancements, including camera replacement; technology upgrades; classroom lighting/acoustics (alternate); hardening exterior door (alternate); upgrading security cameras (alternate).

**Hancock Middle/High School:** Bottle-filler additions; Haz-Mat abatement; kitchen/serving/storage renovation; locker replacements; masonry restoration; security enhancements, including camera replacement; STEAM classroom; technology upgrades; hardening exterior door (alternate); improving site drainage (alternate); upgrading security cameras (alternate).

**Hancock Bus Garage:** Add ADA-compliant bathrooms, bay for 72-passenger bus, instruction area for group meetings, and oil/water separator; Haz-Mat abatement; repair/replace water-distribution system; replace HVAC system, HW heating system, lift, lighting for emergency exits, and roof; renovate mechanic area; upgrade security system, storm drains, electrical system.

**Louise Adelia Memorial Library:** Replace bluestone sidewalk and lighting.

"With regard to the Bus Garage, the District entertained the possibility of constructing a new facility," Dougherty said. "However, this approach proved to be cost-ineffective and unnecessary, given the strong structural integrity that is present in the existing Bus Garage. Simply stated, renovation makes much more sense, for practical reasons."

### **Project Goals**

The proposed project focuses on maintaining a quality educational environment for all students and staff, upgrading safety and technology elements, and exercising proper fiscal responsibility. The proposed project addresses these goals, which are consistent with our Mission, Vision and Core Beliefs:

- Meeting today's education standards through programmatic compliance of spaces that adapt to changes in curriculum, instruction and technology, and provide the best learning environment
- Upgrading safety and ensuring ADA Compliance
- Improving the physical state of facilities (energy conservation, aging infrastructure)
- Having a positive financial impact for the community

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### **Project Funding**

New York State Building Aid and the HCSD Capital Reserve Fund (including the Assigned Fund Balance) would fund the proposed project as follows:

- Proposed Capital Project = \$8,000,000
- NYS Building Aid = \$5,872,000
- Capital Reserve = \$1,740,000
- Assigned Fund Balance = \$388,000
- **ZERO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT TO LOCAL TAXPAYERS!**

### **Project Schedule**

If approved, the Capital Project will proceed as follows:

**Project Design:** December 2019-May 2020

**NYS Education Department Review/Approval (Expedited):** June-August 2020

**Bid & Award:** November 2020-December 2020

**Construction:** February 2021-November 2021

The Board of Education stated that the District will serve as the project's Lead Agency, as required by New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act; accepted the designation of Type II Actions at the Elementary School, Middle/High School and Read Memorial Library; and accepted the designation of an Unlisted Action at the Bus Garage, as defined by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The BOE also acted on resolution language to be put before the public for vote.

### **Project Benefits**

In summary, the benefits of the proposed Capital Project are:

- District, student and community needs have been thoroughly analyzed
- Present/long-term academic needs will be met
- Students will be better-prepared for 21st century with technology improvements
- Fiscally prudent plan has no additional tax impact and low/attractive interest rates
- Safety/security will improve district-wide
- Increased community use of facilities
- School buildings/infrastructure will be preserved and/or enhance

A public hearing explaining all aspects of the proposed project is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, November 25, at the Hancock Middle/High School Auditorium. The proposed Capital Project Vote will take place from 2-8 p.m. December 5 in Room 203 of Hancock Middle/High School building.

Local residents are encouraged to contact the District Office with questions at 637-1301.

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