NEWS

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RE: Hancock Central School District
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Hancock Central Schools to Seek Voter Approval to Renovate Facilities with 0% tax IMPACT

"Our facilities have always been very well maintained, however, just like owning a home, over time buildings need updates, boilers and paving need replacing and technology requires upgrading."~ Terry Dougherty, Superintendent of Hancock Central School District

Hancock, NY, October 17, 2014– On December 4, 2014 voters in the Hancock Central School District will vote on proposed improvements to the district's facilities in a public referendum. The $6.5 million Capital Improvement Project was developed to address infrastructure, safety and maintenance concerns at Hancock Elementary and Hancock Middle/High School. The Hancock Central School District Capital Project is part of the district's long term commitment to developing a solution to infrastructure issues and meeting the Information needs of the 21st Century, particularly in science, math, and technology. According to Terry Dougherty, Superintendent of Schools, "It is the district's belief, based on research into effective learning environments that improving and maintaining school facilities will positively affect student performance, enabling students to compete in today's local, regional and global environments. What's more, due to ongoing prudent fiscal management by the board of education, we are able to offer this project to our residents without any additional increase in taxes."

Regarding the financing for the proposed project, Dougherty indicated that three revenue sources—state aid, the district's capital reserve fund, and assigned fund balance—will account for the total cost of the project at no additional expense to local taxpayers.

The Hancock Central School District Capital Project Building Committee was formed in January of 2014 and spent the past year working diligently to prioritize components of the project in order to minimize costs. The $6.5 Million Capital Project includes, but is not limited to, the following areas at both the Elementary School (**ES**) and Hancock Middle/ High School (**MS/HS**)**: Energy, Athletics and Recreation, Safety and**

Security and Infrastructure. Examples of some of the improvements at all the schools are listed below. For a more comprehensive look at the Capital Project being put up for a vote on December 4th, go to the district website at http://hancock.stier.org and click on 2014 Capital Project Link.

1. **Safety and Security – @ ES/ MS/HS** work is to include providing a separate secure entrance for visitors to access the elementary school office as well as District Office before being allowed into the school, providing new classroom doors with proper vision panels, provide abatement of asbestos floor tile in the classrooms, provide emergency generator connection for use with a portable generator and provide additional security cameras and camera recorders.
2. **Energy – @ ES** work is to include replacement of classroom curtain wall glass and framing and HVAC units and providing new insulated panels and windows on the northwest classroom addition and replacement of the boilers. At the **MS/HS** work is to include new cooling in the auditorium and replacement of the boilers.
3. **Physical Education and Athletics/Recreation — @ ES** work is to include playground upgrades and providing an accessible route to the playground. At the **MS/HS** work is to include extending the field hockey field to make it NFHS standard size, provide safety fencing along first base and third base lines, provide re-grading of the fields for drainage.
4. **Technology - @ ES/ MS/HS** work is to include servers, licensing, switches, storage and back-up, wireless and UPS, smartboards, computers and program and speech audio reinforcement.
5. **Infrastructure @ the MS/HS~** Paving and Site Work - work is to include sound isolation of the gym and the auditorium, provide new ceiling and lighting throughout the corridors and at the main entrance, provide new ventilation and finishes in the weight room. Also increase the size of the band room and make it a band and choral room within the existing foot print of the music space, provide a smaller ensemble type space for music, provide acoustical treatment in the music area. At the **ES** work would include providing code related plumbing work, replace lighting in the Cafeteria/Auditorium and renovation of the kindergarten bathrooms.

Dougherty was quick to compliment the board of education and the facilities planning committee for their ongoing vision and support. He added, "At the end of the day, it is our deeply held belief that this proposed capital project will benefit students and residents alike, and I remain grateful for the strong support our residents have shown toward the school over the years."

This vote will be held from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on December 4, 2014, tentatively in the middle/high school auditorium. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and has been a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the referendum is eligible to vote.

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