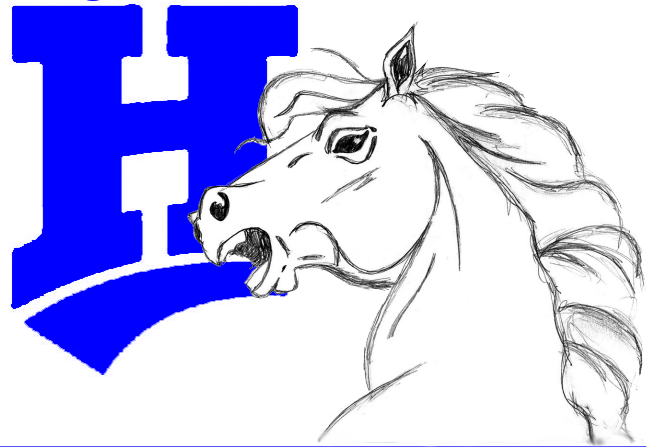


Horseheads Schools: Building Our Future Now Capital Project

Vote

October 17



Dear Community Members:

On October 17, we ask district residents to vote on a comprehensive capital project to improve both our educational programs and physical infrastructure. This is a very important project for our district and our entire community.

We all agree that our children deserve a great education; by preparing them well during their years in our schools, we help them become productive, successful, and happy citizens who can help our community prosper. A great education happens with knowledgeable and caring people, solid and well-planned curriculum, and a sound, up-to-date infrastructure. An excellent educational program is important to ensuring a healthy, vibrant, and growing community.

Our district has enjoyed great success and weathered difficult times. We have a proud history of providing excellence in education, but over the years, our infrastructure has experienced the wear and tear of a busy and extensive educational program. We must address these items in order to provide a solid foundation for our children and maintain our competitive edge, so that we are the district of choice in the region.

We know that items in our homes such as roofs, lighting, and mechanical systems don't last forever. Our buildings are now 50 to 60 years old. By putting together a thoughtful plan to replace critical systems and upgrade our schools and infrastructure, we can maximize aid from our state and minimize the local impact.

Major components of the project focus directly on education, such as upgrades to classrooms, security, and technology. Part of the plan is to create a cohesive high school building, with a clear, secure entrance, a state of the art library, and classroom upgrades to meet not just state requirements, but the needs of our students.

Every school building, our transportation department, and our grounds would see improvements in this project.

Many people have worked very hard to put this plan together, and many have had a hand in developing it. For nearly a year, we've held community forums, talked with students and staff, shared our vision with business leaders and community members, and worked with our architect and fiscal advisors to create the plan we are proposing here in this document. At the time, we called our project *'Horseheads 2030.'* It's now called **'Building Our Future Now'** because that's exactly what we're doing. This project would be complete by the summer of 2022.

Over the years, we all have paid taxes to our state. The state has used these funds for building projects in other districts near Horseheads and across the state, but it has been many years since we've accessed state funds for needed building projects of our own. It is time for these tax dollars, which we have paid to the state over the past several decades, to come back home to our school district, so that our students and community may enjoy the benefits of upgraded, quality school buildings. Upgrading our facilities will enhance our area and region.

Please vote on October 17. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and there is only one voting location: the Horseheads High School South Gym. Thank you for your consideration of this project, as well as your continued support of our students and the greater Horseheads Central School District community.

Sincerely,

Pamela F. Strollo, Board of Education President

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent of Schools

VOTE
October 17
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Horseheads High School
South Gym

A comprehensive project

The project offered to voters on October 17 totals \$94,685,637 and includes upgrades and improvements at all district schools and the Transportation Department. While the entire project seeks to enhance our educational program by improving our physical infrastructure, significant parts of the project focus directly on education, including upgrades to classrooms, technology, and security.

The project was developed through research and planning, using the district's most recent Building Condition Survey (BCS) as a guide. The BCS is a state-required document surveying the district's infrastructure and outlining needed repairs and upgrades. The district then worked with our architect and fiscal advisors to maximize state building aid, and met with community members, staff members, students, and business leaders to shape the scope of the project.

Many of the items in the project replace operational systems and items that are no longer warrantied or are at the end of their useful life. These systems will be upgraded to more efficient models. A district-wide Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system will be installed, and technology upgrades will be completed across the district to enhance communication, technology use, and security.

Please see pages 5-8 for a list of project highlights by building.

Elementary Schools

Big Flats, Center Street, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road would see roof replacements, mechanical system upgrades, VOIP and technology upgrades, emergency lighting upgrades, playground improvements, and parking lot/traffic flow improvements.

The schools would also undergo specific projects based on building needs, such as replacement of the boiler system at Center Street, main entrance security improvements at Gardner Road, and electrical and exterior door replacements at Big Flats and Ridge Road.



Transportation Department

The Transportation Department on Sayre Street would also undergo similar improvements as our other buildings including VOIP and emergency lighting upgrades, plus additional work such as overhead door replacements and security/technology upgrades.

Horseheads Middle/Intermediate Schools

The project includes classroom upgrades for science, art, and technology at the Middle School, cafeteria expansion and kitchen upgrades, and playground improvements at the Intermediate School. Traffic flow and the parking lot would also see further improvements in this project.

The complex will also see security and VOIP upgrades, roof replacements, mechanical system and electrical upgrades, and exterior door replacements.

Horseheads High School

As the building most in need and the site where all our students will complete their education, the High School will see major work to improve security, classrooms, technology, student flow within the building, traffic flow, and more. The project includes the construction of a secure entrance and library, classroom upgrades, kitchen and cafeteria renovations, and the addition of a multi-purpose outdoor facility that would be used for events across the district, including athletics, field band, community events, and eventually our graduation.

Vote October 17
Horseheads High School South Gym
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Capital project Q&A

Q: Why is this project necessary?

A: This project seeks to upgrade and renovate our physical infrastructure in order to provide an educational environment that meets the needs of our students in a time of changing educational demands.

Many of our buildings' critical systems have reached or passed the end of their lifespan. This project would replace or upgrade these systems, including boilers, lighting, roofs, and mechanical systems. Many of these systems and equipment are original to the buildings. Currently, more efficient and cost-saving products are available.

The project would also bring district buildings to local and state codes as well as state education department recommendations for classroom size and other requirements.

The Horseheads district has long been recognized as providing the best education in the region. The district at one time possessed the best facilities as well, but this is no longer the case. Area districts have completed many capital projects on a greater scale than Horseheads. The district facilities staff have always worked hard to maintain buildings and grounds, but over time, wear and tear on the physical infrastructure must be remedied.

We want our students to be able to meet and exceed their potential and be contributing members of a global community. Our facilities must be able to support initiatives such as experiential and inquiry-based learning, STEM/STEAM/STREAM (science, technology, research, engineering, arts, and math), and 21st century skills.

A quality school district is necessary to maintain property values and to attract businesses and families to our community.

Q: If approved, when would the project begin and when would it be complete?

A: If the project is approved, the first step is to finalize design plans and submit them to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for approval. Once the project is approved, the project would be submitted for the bid process. We would expect to begin construction in Spring/Summer 2018. We expect the project to be completed by the summer of 2022.

Q: How would this project benefit our community?

A: The project would benefit our community by investing in our community. Schools are an important part of a community. Quality schools help maintain and increase property values. An upgraded infrastructure combined with an excellent educational program improve community pride, and can increase enrollment, as people looking to move to the area see our district as the district of choice.

Upgrading our facilities could bring regional and state activities to our district, benefiting our local economy and enhancing our image.

The project also seeks to improve traffic flow, not just in our school parking lots, but also in the streets surrounding our schools.



Architect's conceptual rendering of the High School Entrance

Q: What is state aid?

A: New York State Aid is the major source of funding provided by the state to school districts and municipalities. It comes from taxes everyone pays to the state. State building aid goes to all districts with approved capital projects. Horseheads has not utilized a significant portion of this aid in many years, yet Horseheads taxpayers pay into funding state building aid, thus helping to improve other districts rather than our own. Horseheads 2030 seeks to secure Horseheads' share of vital building funds for our school district.

continued on page 9

What will the project include?

High School:

\$38,348,798 renovations \$15,030,840 additions

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

- Main Entrance Relocation and Security Improvements
- New Main Office/Guidance Office/Nurse's Suite
- Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion
- Classroom Additions
- Classroom Renovations
- Library Addition

BUILDING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- Partial Roof Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades
- Building Wide Voice Over Internet Protocol & Technology Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Door Replacement

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Traffic Flow/Parking Lots
- New Main Entrance Plaza & Security Improvements
- New Multi Purpose Stadium

VOTE
October 17
Horseheads High School
South Gym
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

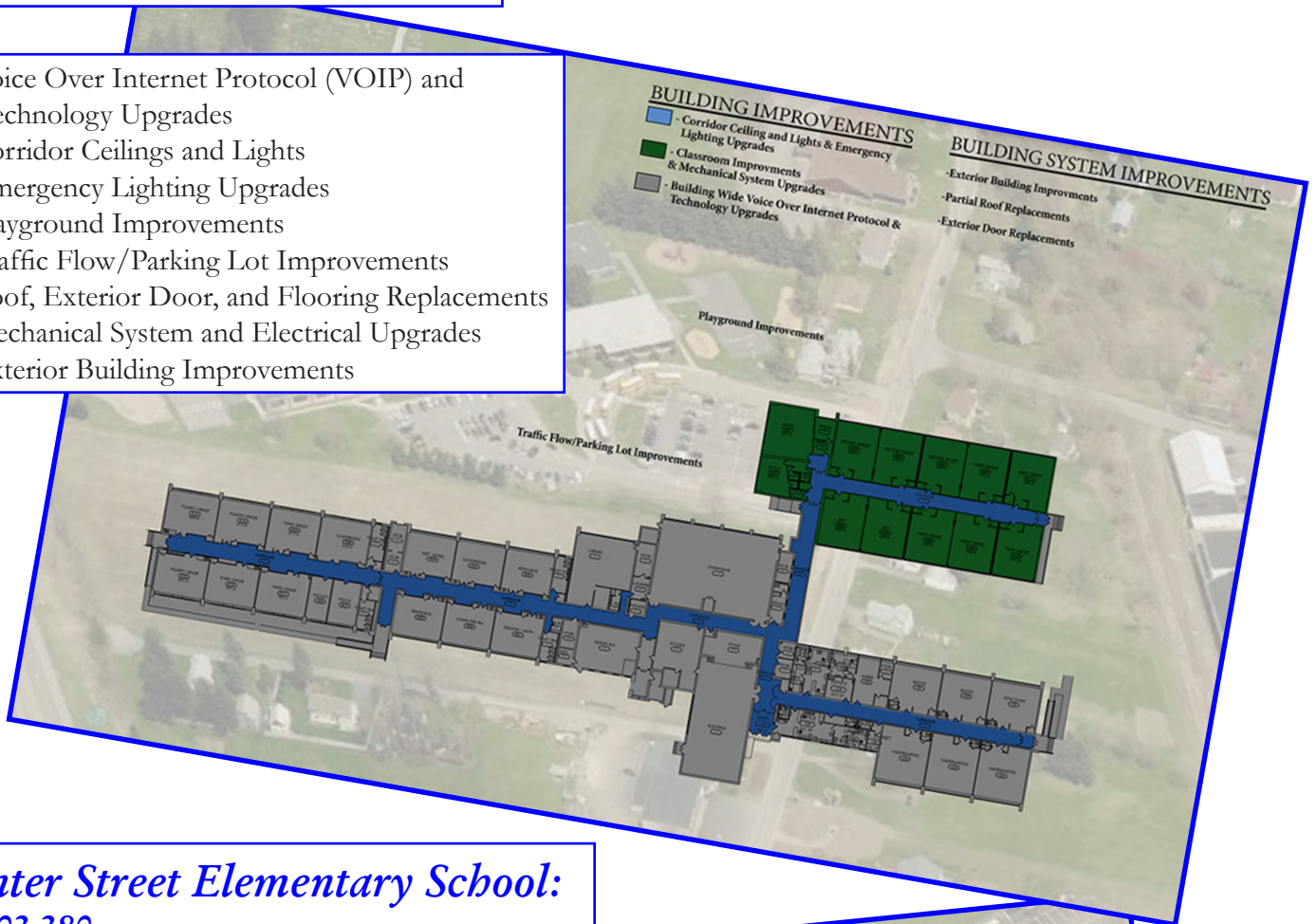
RAIDERS
HORSEHEADS

- Main Entrance Relocation and Security Improvements
- New Main Office/Guidance Office/ Nurse's Suite
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lots
- Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion
- Classroom Addition/Renovations
- Library Addition
- Multi-Purpose Stadium
- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Roof and Exterior Door Replacements
- Mechanical System and Electrical Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades

**Big Flats Elementary School:
\$4,839,384**

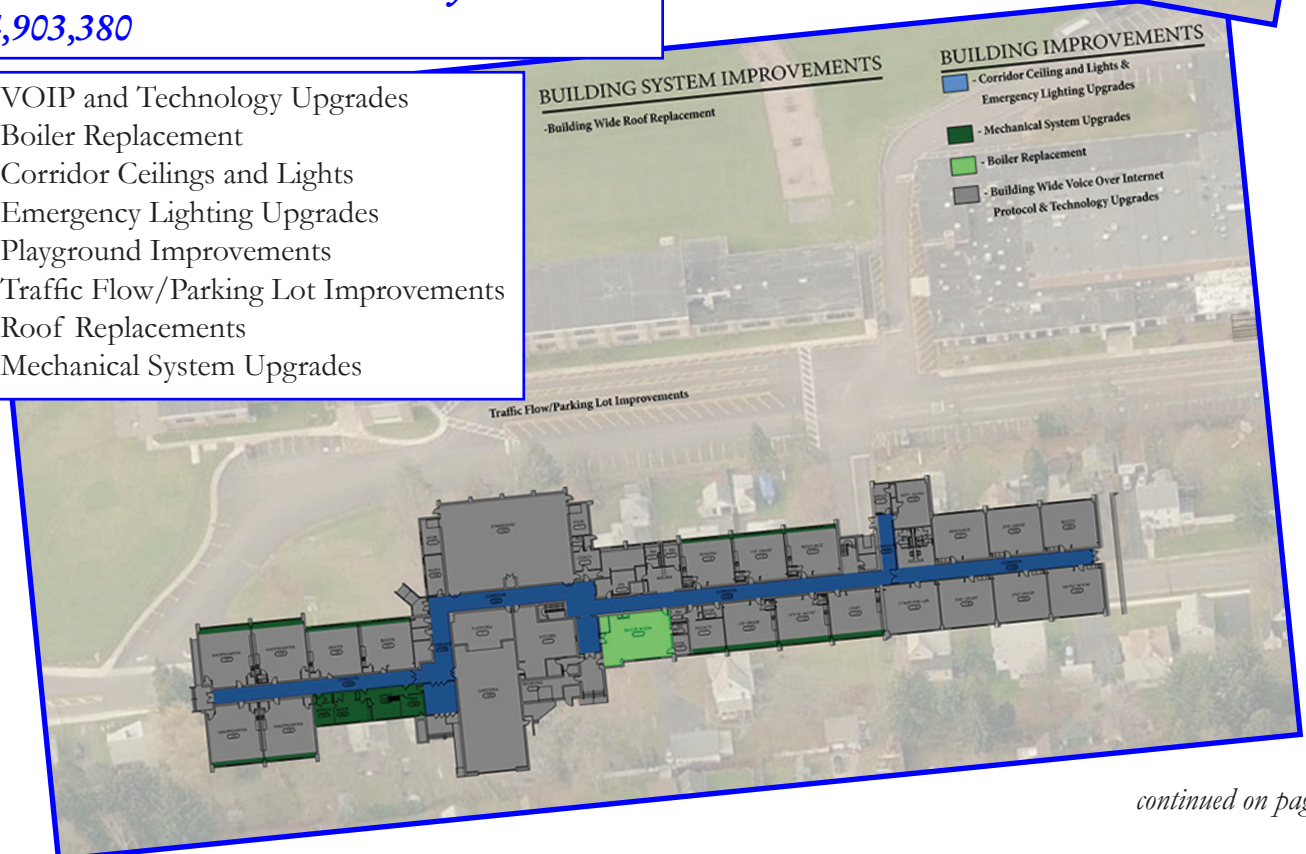
Please note: full-size printouts of these architectural drawings are on display in our schools and district office.

- Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and Technology Upgrades
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Roof, Exterior Door, and Flooring Replacements
- Mechanical System and Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Building Improvements



**Center Street Elementary School:
\$4,903,380**

- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Boiler Replacement
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Roof Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades

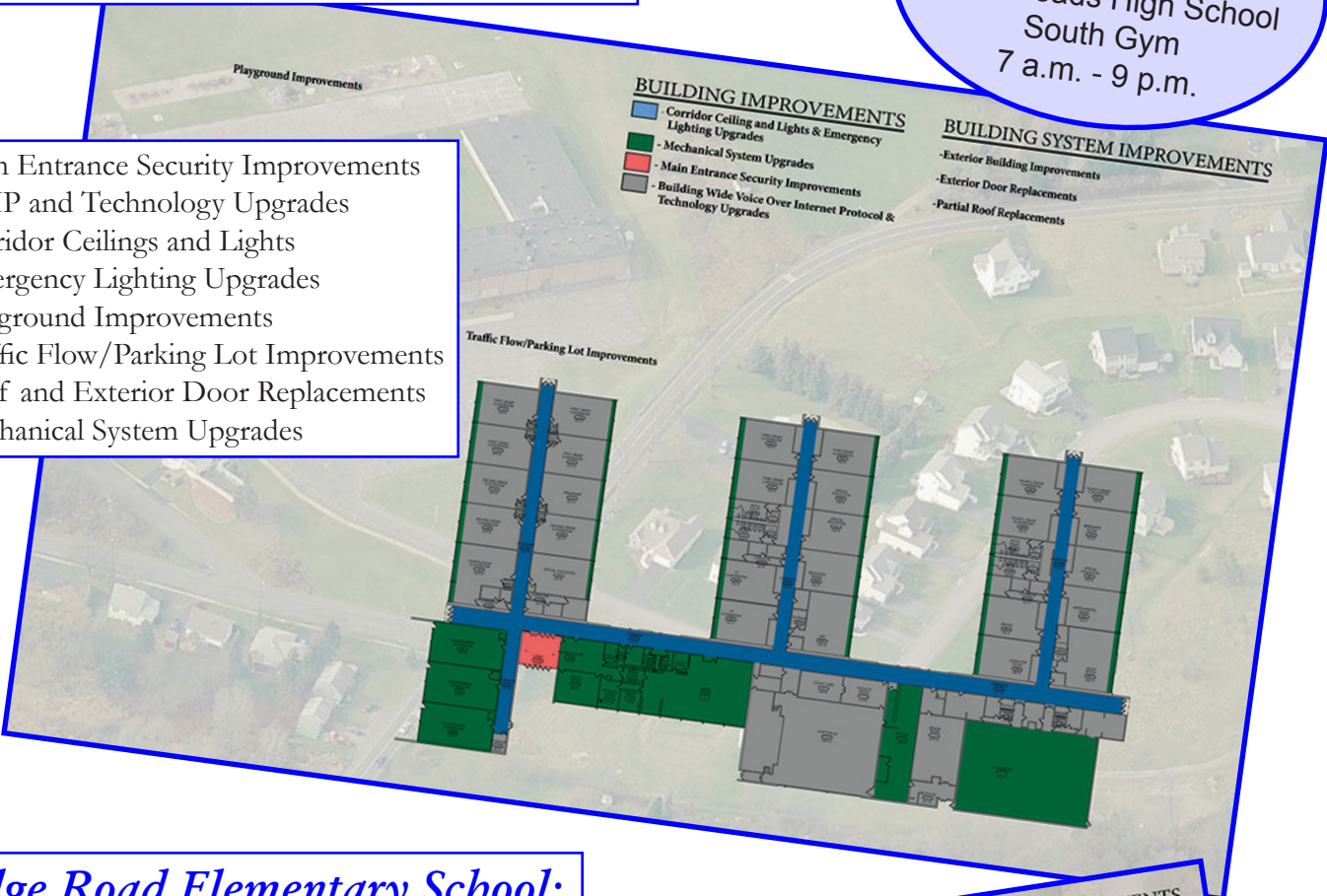


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Gardner Road Elementary School:
\$4,939,920

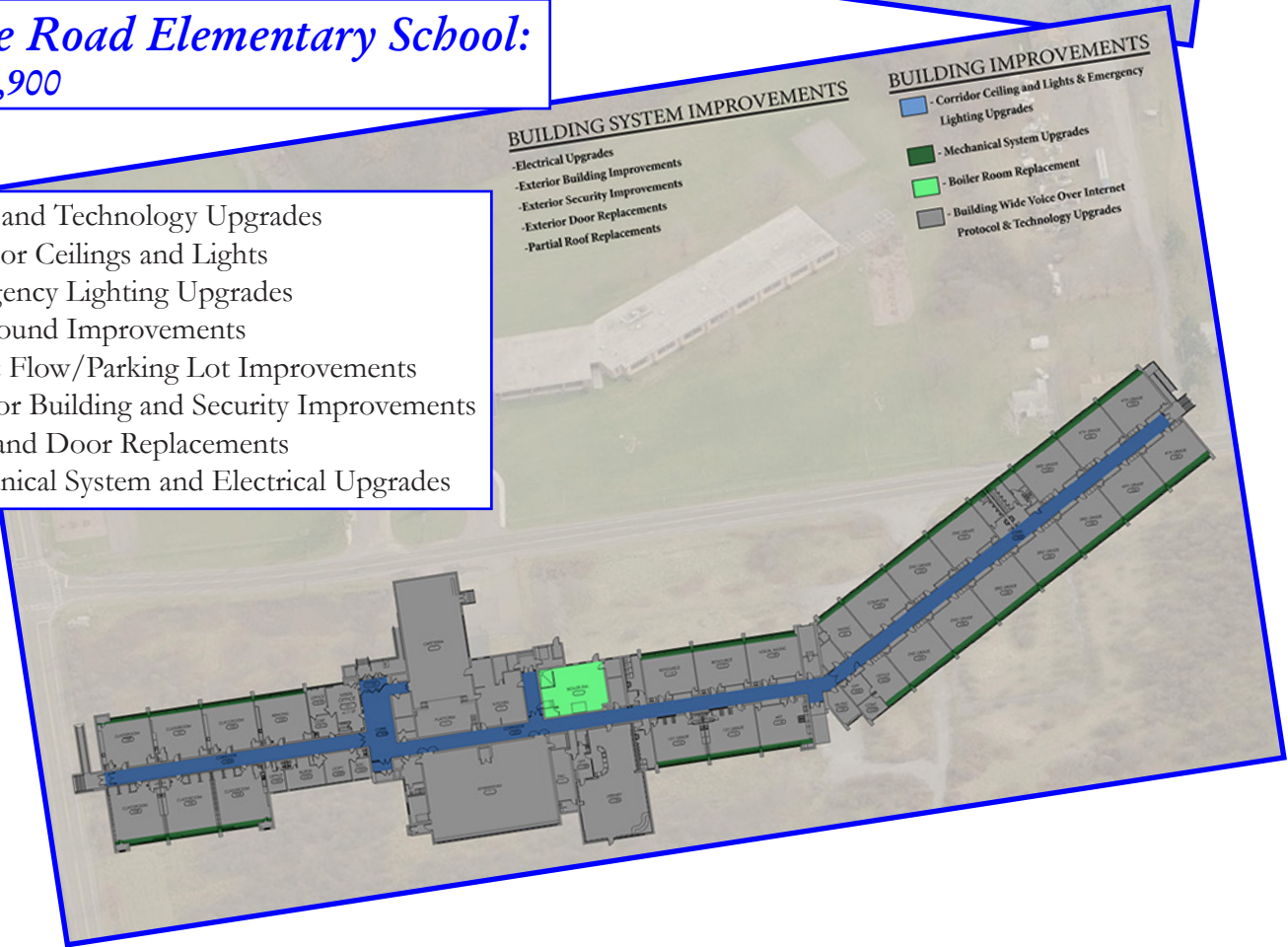
VOTE
October 17
 Horseheads High School
 South Gym
 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

- Main Entrance Security Improvements
- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Roof and Exterior Door Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades



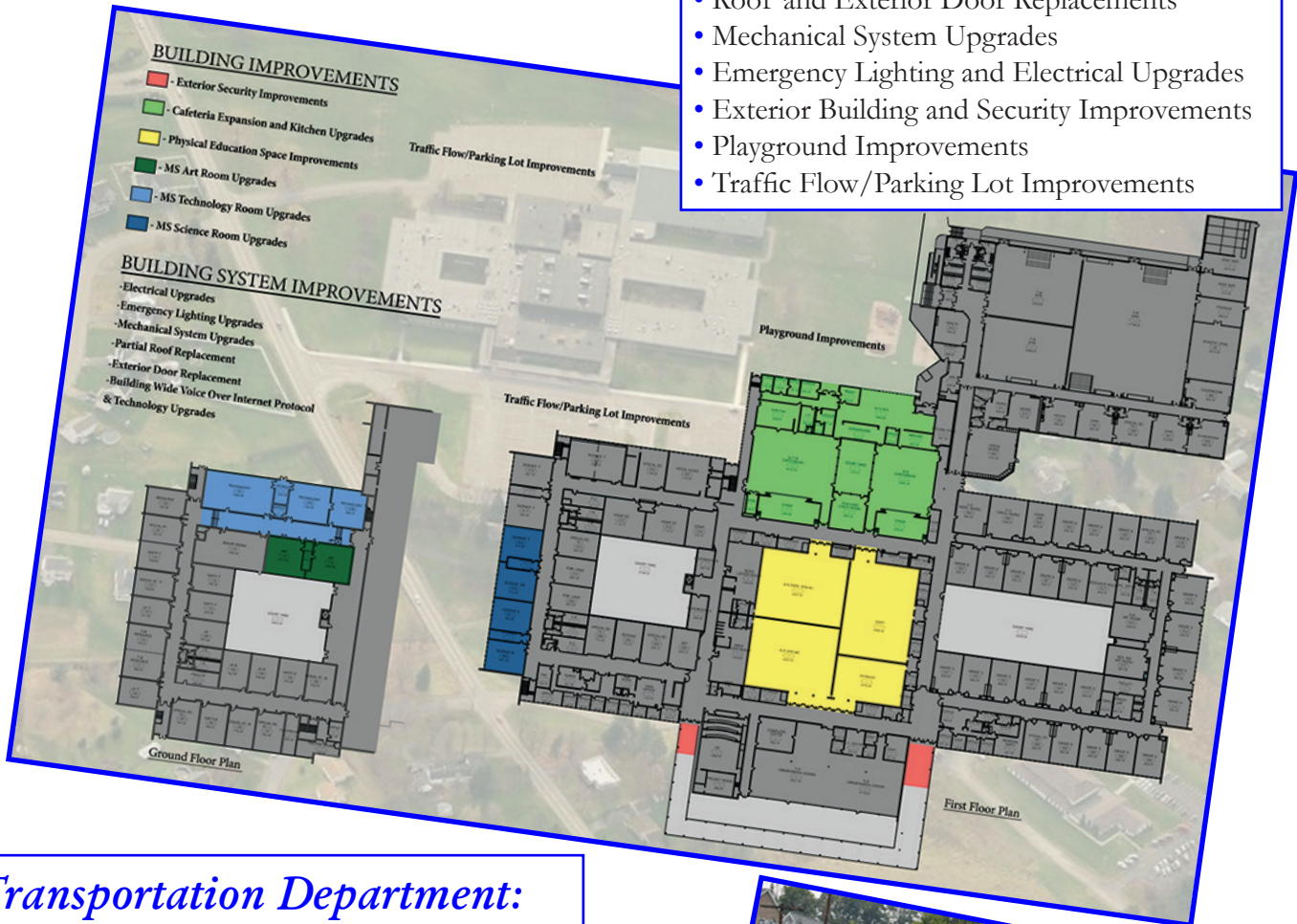
Ridge Road Elementary School:
\$5,514,900

- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Exterior Building and Security Improvements
- Roof and Door Replacements
- Mechanical System and Electrical Upgrades



Middle/Intermediate Schools:
\$16,169,448 renovations; \$588,967 additions

- Middle School Art, Science, Technology Room Upgrades
- Physical Education Space Improvements
- Cafeteria Expansion and Kitchen Upgrades
- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Roof and Exterior Door Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting and Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Building and Security Improvements
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements



Transportation Department:
\$4,350,000

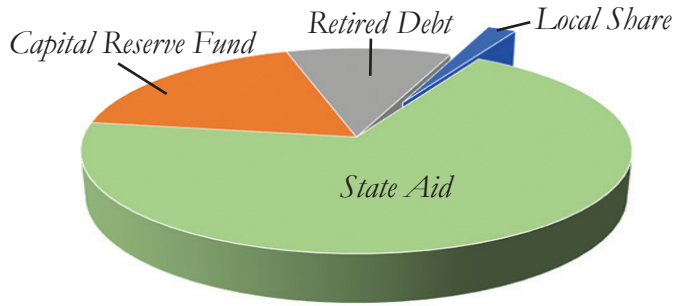
- Mechanical System and Electrical Upgrades
- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Exterior Building Improvements
- Exterior and Overhead Door Replacements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements



VOTE
October 17
 Horseheads High School
 South Gym
 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

How would the project be funded?

The project would be primarily paid for through state building aid. The remainder of the cost would come from the district's capital reserve fund, retired debt, and a minimal local share. The district's fiscal advisors have been conservative in estimating interest rates and local share. We anticipate a minimal increase in the annual tax levy of no more than 1.87%. For a homeowner in the District with a residence valued at \$100,000, the estimated tax increase is expected to be no more than \$2.73 per month. This increase will be phased in over a four-year period beginning in 2019.



State Building Aid: New York State offers building aid to school districts on eligible building projects. The state uses a complex formula to determine aid, using a building's maximum cost allowance as set by the state. The district, architect, and fiscal advisors have worked to develop this project, maximizing state aid and minimizing any local impact.

Retired Debt: The district will borrow some funds for this project, but this amount will be offset by retiring debt, or loans that the district will be paying off during the project.

Capital Reserve Fund: In May 2015, district voters approved the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for capital expenditures. Ten million dollars from this fund will be used toward this project.

Local Property Tax: The districts' fiscal advisors have arrived at a very conservative estimate of a 1.87% increase in the tax levy to fund this project. This amount is just 2% of the entire project's costs.



Total Cost by Building (See pages 5-8 for a list of projects by building)	
High School - Renovations	\$38,348,798
High School - Additions	\$15,030,840
MS/IS - Renovations	\$16,169,448
MS/IS - Additions	\$588,967
Big Flats	\$4,839,384
Center Street	\$4,903,380
Gardner Road	\$4,939,920
Ridge Road	\$5,514,900
Bus Garage	\$4,350,000
Total	\$94,685,637

Project Funding Summary	
Total Project Cost:	\$94,685,637
Funding Sources:	
New York State Building Aid	69%
Retired Debt	18%
Capital Reserve Fund	11%
Local Property Tax	2%
Estimated tax levy increase over four years beginning in 2019: 1.87%	
Estimated annual increase for a homeowner with a home valued at \$100,000 full value:	
Cost per Year	\$32.80
Cost per Month	\$2.73
Cost per Day	\$0.09

VOTE October 17
Horseheads High School South Gym
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Homeowners to receive tax rebate

New York State provides a yearly property tax relief credit to eligible homeowners, provided that their school district budgets remain under the tax cap.

The Horseheads district budget complies with the tax cap, so eligible homeowners will receive the credit and will be sent a check by the state.

For more information on STAR exemptions and tax rebates, visit the state's Department of Taxation and Finance website at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/property-tax-relief.htm>.

District Tax Rate on Full Value Assessment, or 'Tax on True'

The district's current tax rate is \$17.54 per thousand on full value assessment, or "tax on true." In 2007, the "tax on true" was \$19.40 per thousand. During the past ten years, the district has decreased the "tax on true" rate by nearly two dollars per thousand. This is due to good financial stewardship and growth in property values across the district.

"Tax on true" means a home's value is assessed at its full value, rather than a ratio or percentage. Some municipalities in the district are assessed at full value, and some are not. This is why we must estimate the tax rate when we develop the school budget. Calculating "tax on true" is how we can accurately compare yearly tax rate changes.

If your tax bill shows a different tax rate than \$17.53, this means that your municipality does not assess at full value. Therefore, the state uses equalization rates to "equalize" property values across municipalities.

If you have questions, please call the Business Office at (607) 739-5601, x4260.



Q&A, continued

Q: *If this project is approved, will students be displaced as classrooms are renovated?*

A: Classroom upgrades would occur at the High School and Middle School, but we do not expect that students would be displaced. Construction would take place during the summer months. There may be some classes reassigned to other classrooms while work is finalized, but we will work to keep that to a minimum.

Q: *What is the BCS and what does it have to do with the project?*

A: BCS stands for Building Condition Survey. The New York State Education Department requires schools districts to submit a BCS every five years, describing the state of the infrastructure and building needs. In 2015, Horseheads' BCS identified \$159 million in necessary repairs, replacements, and/or upgrades plus construction fees and incidental costs.

The BCS has served as a guideline for discussions about the infrastructure of the district. Using this guideline and state funding formulas, the district, along with our architect and financial advisors, have come up with this plan as a first step toward the upgrading of the entire district.

View the district's 2015 BCS here: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/uploadeddocs/2015BCS.pdf>.

Q: *Why is most of the work at the High School? What about the other schools?*

A: The bulk of this project is at the High School because the building has the most needs, as identified through the district's Building Condition Survey. The High School is also the building where all of our students will complete their public education leading to the beginning of their adult life, whether it be through college, work, or other post-secondary plans.

Our Middle/Intermediate complex will see a great deal of work as well, upgrading science, technology, and art classrooms as well as enlarging the cafeteria.

Elementary schools will see some work, upgrading critical mechanical systems, playgrounds, parking lots, and other items. Future projects will focus on these schools to upgrade classrooms and other areas. Any future project will be brought to voters as well.

continued on page 11

Also on the ballot...

Election of one Board of Education member

On October 17, voters will also elect one member to the Board of Education. The board currently has one open seat due to the resignation of a former member of the board who moved out of state. The highest vote-getter will win the seat. The term of this seat begins immediately and expires June 30, 2019.

One person is running for the board seat:

Mary Anne Holleran

Mary Anne Holleran is a retired teacher from Corning Schools. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at SUNY Cortland. She holds a bachelor's degree from D'Youville College and a master's degree from Elmira College. She has three adult children, all Horseheads graduates, and has lived in the district for 38 years.

"I believe the prosperity and future of a community is strongly determined by the strength of its school system," said Mary Anne. "The quality of the Horseheads School District encourages people to reside in our community, and more importantly, provides a foundation for our children's future success."



Please note: one voting location

Vote October 17 at Horseheads High School only

The October 17 vote will be at the Horseheads High School South Gym. All voters will vote at the High School.

The reason for this change to one polling place is to adhere strictly to New York State Election and Education laws.

If you have questions, please contact us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or (607) 739-5601, x4260.

Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who cannot get to the polls on October 17 due to illness or travel may vote by using an absentee ballot.

Applications for absentee ballots are available in the district's Business Office, South Wing of the High School, from 8am to 3:30pm, up to October 16.

Completed ballots must be returned to the Business Office no later than 5 p.m. October 17.

The district mails absentee ballots to voters listed as "permanently disabled" by the Chemung County Board of Elections.

Questions? Call 739-5601, x4260.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Megan Collins, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

Vote October 17 • 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Horseheads High School South Gym

Q&A, continued

Q: Have there been capital projects like this in the past?

A: Not to this extent. This would be one of the most comprehensive projects in our district since buildings were built in the 1950s and 60s. Much smaller project have been implemented in various parts of the district. For the past several years, the district has spent funds from the educational budget on small capital expenditures, with amounts ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million annually.

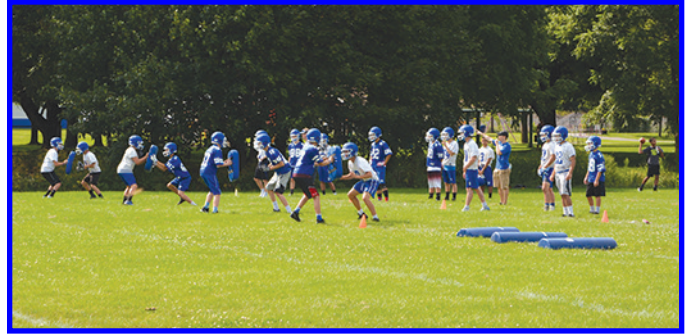
Q: What happened to the building study a couple of years ago?

A: The building consolidation study, or facilities use/grade configuration study, came to a conclusion last year, when the Board of Education chose the “green option,” which meant that no schools would be closed at this time. This study also used the Building Consolidation Study (BCS) to determine what costs would be necessary to upgrade/repair the buildings. The board’s decision to keep all of our schools open at this time also included the need to improve our district’s buildings and grounds.



Q: What about the merger study with Elmira Heights - is that subject closed?

A: In December of 2015, after many months of public meetings and discussion, 83% of the voters in Horseheads voted down the idea of merging with our neighboring district. This told our Board of Education and administration that the community wishes to keep our district the Horseheads Central School District, closing this subject and moving forward.



Q: If passed, how will we know the project is successful?

A: A successful construction project comes in on time and within budget. However, this project is much more than a construction project. This project would create clearly marked secure main entrances and improve traffic flow at our schools, enhancing safety, security, and efficiency.

It would eliminate the use of educational funds in our annual budget to repair and improve the quality of district facilities and classroom for students, staff, and community.

The project would result in a centralized High School library with updated educational resources and technology, along with better flow for students. District-wide improvements in mechanical systems would increase energy efficiency. We would complete the technology upgrades and update our phone system district-wide, providing better products, safety/security, and services for our students and community.

Overall, we will know that this project has succeeded when we see improved morale, efficiency, productivity, achievement, and success for our students, staff, and community in our global society.



Learn more about the project at www.horseheadsdistrict.com

Capital Project Vote

October 17, 2017

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

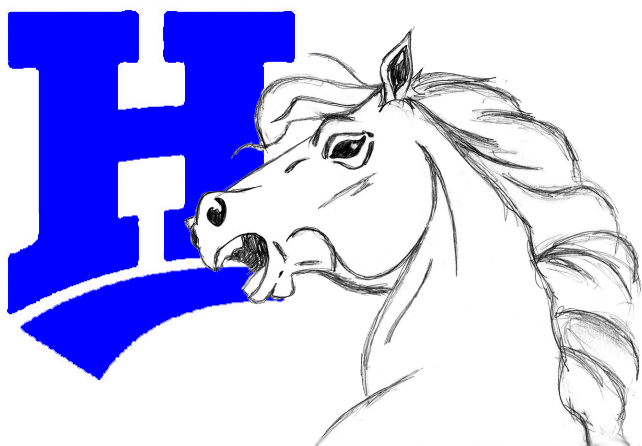
Horseheads High School South Gym

Who is eligible to vote?

All district residents are eligible to vote, as long as they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
- Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote on October 17
- Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law
- Please bring identification to the vote

Questions? Call 739-5601, x4260.



Building Our Future Now

Please vote October 17

Horseheads Central School District
One Raider Lane • Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 739-5601, x4295

Non-Profit Org.
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PAID
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Elmira, NY

Board of Education

Pamela Strollo, President
Brian Lynch, Vice President
Lisa Christiansen; Daniel Christmas;
Warren Conklin; Kristine Dale;
Doug Johnson; David Sadler; Angelique
Lapitan (student representative)

Superintendent

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas

Contact

Susan Pirozzolo, (607) 739-5601, x4295
supirozz@horseheadsdistrict.com