



The Beacon



Shining a light on the Baldwinsville Central School District

Capital Project Vote - February 11, 2014 6:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M. Baker High School Auditorium

Proposed \$18.5 Million Project Addresses Repairs and Upgrades in District Buildings

The proposed Capital Project will address repairs, replacements and upgrades at Baker High School, Durgee Junior High School, Ray Middle School, Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium, and the Baldwinsville Public Library (the district owns the building). The project will be presented to tax payers in two propositions, the details of which can be found on pages 2 and 3. The estimated total cost of the project is \$18.5 million.

The district's Facilities Committee reviews the systems and structural elements in the district's Long Range Facilities Plan that are necessary to renovate, replace and/or upgrade due to their age and/or condition.

Regular care, repairs, and upgrades protect the district's assets. The Facilities Committee determined that the upgrades and renovations of this capital project are necessary at this time to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment in our schools, as well as to maintain the quality of the district's assets, much the same way a homeowner maintains a house to

protect his investment.

The estimated cost of Proposition I is \$14.85 million. This proposition stands alone. Its passage is not dependent on the passage of Proposition II. The estimated cost of Proposition II is \$3.65 million. The passage of Proposition II is dependent on the passage of Proposition I. If Proposition I does not pass, then Proposition II does not pass.

The district expects that this project will not affect the tax levy.

Please see pages 2 and 3 for more detailed information on each proposition as well as information on the financing of the project.

Public Hearing
January 21, 2014
7:00 P.M.
Durgee Jr. High School Cafeteria

Project At A Glance

Proposition I

Estimated Cost = \$14.85 Million

Scope of Work:

Repairs, upgrades and replacements at Baker High School, Durgee Junior High School, Ray Middle School, Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium, and the Baldwinsville Public Library

Proposition II

Estimated Cost = \$3.65 Million

Scope of Work:

Installation of turf at Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium, replacement of wooden bleachers at the stadium, and construct long jump and triple jump field event area.

Estimated Tax Impact:

The district expects that the project will not affect the tax levy because the local share of the proposed project is equal to the district's current debt service, which will be paid off at the time the cost of this project is added to the debt service.

PROPOSITION I: \$14.85 Million Estimated Cost

Proposition I stands alone. It *is not* dependent on the passage of Proposition II. If Proposition II does not pass, Proposition I may still pass.

Baker High School



- ▶ A complete gutting and renovation, including asbestos removal, in the auditorium
- ▶ Replace a portion of the roof
- ▶ Window replacements
- ▶ Fire alarm panel/system upgrades
- ▶ Telephone system upgrades
- ▶ Masonry reconstruction

Ray Middle School

- ▶ Replace building's two boilers due to age and efficiency (original to building)
- ▶ Replace building's hot water heater
- ▶ Replace exterior doors due to age (original to building)
- ▶ Fire alarm panel/system upgrades
- ▶ Telephone system upgrades



Durgee Junior High School



- ▶ Reconstruction of bus circle and parent drop-off site
- ▶ Fire alarm panel/system upgrades
- ▶ Telephone system upgrades
- ▶ Floor finish replacements

Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium

- ▶ Replace the drainage system under the stadium field

Baldwinsville Public Library

The district owns the library building and is responsible for repairs and upgrades to the structure.

- ▶ Roof flashing reconstruction
- ▶ Replace three damaged windows

Capital Project Timeline

If voters approve the project, the district will submit it to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for approval. After receiving NYSED approval, the district will put the project out to bid and contracts will be awarded for the work. Work may begin at this point. The district anticipates that Proposition I, which is most of the work at Baker, Durgee, and Ray, would begin in the summer

of 2015 with completion in the Fall of 2016.

Proposition II, the work at the stadium, would occur in the fall of 2015 and the summer of 2016 with a completion date of September 2016. Because of the work at Baker, the school will be without the use of its auditorium for a year. The stadium will not be used for the 2015-16 school year.

PROPOSITION II: \$3.65 Million Estimated Cost

The passage of Proposition II *is dependent* on the passage of Proposition I; if Proposition I does not pass, then Proposition II does not pass. However, the passage of Proposition I *is not dependent* on the passage of Proposition II.

Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium

- ▶ Install an artificial turf field
- ▶ Replace wooden bleachers with handicapped accessible bleachers
- ▶ Construct long and triple jump field event area



Capital Project Q & A's

1. Why do we need to do this project now? Why is this necessary?

Regular care, repairs and upgrades protect the district's physical assets, which include its buildings. The Board of Education feels it is necessary to do the work of this proposed project within the next couple of years to maintain the quality of the district's assets and to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment. The district has structures and systems that are aging and/or are no longer efficient. At Baker High School, leaking windows (single pane) in the offices and library need to be replaced with energy efficient windows. The school's auditorium, original to the building, is in need of an overhaul and asbestos in the auditorium ceiling must be removed.

At Ray Middle School, older boilers have reached their life expectancy. The entrances at Ray are original to the building and need to be replaced. At Durgee Junior High School, the bus loop is too narrow for the number of buses that load and unload students. The overflow of buses loads and unloads students on Albert Palmer Drive. Expanding the circle will enable all of the buses to park in the loop in a safer area for loading and unloading students. At Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium, the field has a failed drainage system that needs to be replaced. We recently had test borings done which indicate poor soil conditions under the field with silt present down to six feet. We need to dig down, remove this soil and replace it with proper materials to promote proper drainage. The stadium bleachers are old and not handicapped accessible. They have wooden seats, and it is no longer possible to obtain this type of wood to make repairs.

2. Why install a turf field?

Currently the district uses the stadium grass field 70 to 80 times per year, roughly double the number of recommended times; maximum usage, to preserve its quality, is 40 or 50 times per year. This increased usage has caused the drainage system to fail due to clogging with silt. Each time the field is used when it rains, the system clogs further. If we keep the grass field, we will be replacing it every 5 to 7 years due to drainage system replacement. Currently, when our field is unsuitable for play due to weather conditions, the district rents time on turf fields all over the county. Teams must be bused to practices and "home" events. Transportation and field rentals cost the district additional money. A turf field will allow our

teams to play in all types of weather, eliminating these costs. A turf field is also cheaper to maintain, on an annualized basis, than a grass field. Additionally, the district is exploring the possibility of establishing a special reserve in which field rental monies would be placed in anticipation of replacing the artificial turf in 10 to 15 years.

3. How will the project be funded?

The only practical way for school districts to maintain and re-construct their facilities is to use construction bonds, which requires permission from voters. When a district must re-construct large ticket items, a building project is necessary. For example, a roof can cost \$1 million dollars, which cannot be paid directly from a district's operating budget (the General Fund) since the cost is so high. Because an item such as a roof has a life expectancy of 20 years, the district seeks to pay the cost with long term bonds – just like a home owner would acquire a mortgage to pay for an improvement to his property.

To fund the project, the district will borrow money in the form of bonds and pay them off over 15 years. New York State aid will pay for approximately 86% of the cost of the bonds. We will also use some of our current Capital Reserve to pay for any costs in the project that are not aided by the state. When the district has to add the cost of the proposed project to its debt service in 2016-17, we will have some bonds that will be paid off at the same time. These bonds are worth approximately \$270,000 per year in local share – local taxes. If the proposed project is approved, new bonds for the same amount will replace the old bonds, resulting in no increase in the district's debt service. The \$270,000 represents the 14% local share that the district will have to pay each year of the 15 year bond payback for the proposed project.

4. How will this affect my taxes? Are they going to increase?

As mentioned above, the local share of the proposed project is equal to the current debt service, which will be paid off at the time the cost of this project is added to the debt service. We will be adding debt equal to the amount we will have paid off. The district will also use money from its Capital Reserve to reduce the amount necessary to borrow and cover any items that might not be aided by New York

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Capital Project Q & A's continued from page 3

State. For these reasons, the district expects that this project will not affect the tax levy.

5. What happens if neither proposition is approved?

If neither proposition is approved, the Board of Education might choose to redesign the proposed project and put it up for a vote at a later date.

VOTE INFORMATION

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Baker High School Auditorium

29 East Oneida Street

Voting Requirements

To be eligible to vote, you must be:

- 1.) Eighteen years of age or older;
 - 2.) A citizen of the United States; and
 - 3.) A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote.
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Absentee Ballots

Need an absentee ballot? Please call Karen Anders at 638-6055 to request one by February 4. Absentee ballots must be received in the district office by 5:00 p.m. on February 11.

Volunteers Needed to Help With Vote

The district is looking for volunteers to work the Capital Project vote in four-hour shifts, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Baker High School auditorium on February 11, 2014. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the vote, please contact Karen Anders at 638-6055 or kanders@bville.org.

BALDWINSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

29 E. Oneida St.
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

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