

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION



A PUBLICATION OF THE CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – SPECIAL BOND VOTE EDITION FALL 2016

## Message from the Board President and Superintendent

The Cheektowaga Central School Board at its August 16, 2016 meeting approved a \$24.8 million capital project for facilities improvement. This project is based on the recommendations received by our architects who conducted the district building condition survey in the fall of 2015. New York State Education Law and regulations require a building condition survey (BCS) for all occupied school buildings to be conducted at least every five years (beginning in 2000).

Of the \$24.8 million, the majority of work are priority one and priority two items identified by the districts architects, Gordon W. Jones Associates. These are critical health and safety or accessibility concerns, upgrades to be more energy efficient, and fixer-upper items that have short life span or are eye-sores.

This project provides repairs and upgrades for all four school buildings (Union East, the High School, the Middle School and Pine Hill). The last project of this magnitude was the addition of the middle school that also included refurbishing the auditorium and science classrooms, as well as adding the music and technology wing in 2002 (fourteen years ago).

This project includes many items that home and business owners will understand as part of maintaining property: a roof, heating and ventilation units, plumbing, paving and concrete work, updated fire alarm, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, flooring and electrical work. We also are enhancing our technology capabilities and upgrading the high school auditorium. The stage rigging and curtains are original and no longer deemed safe by engineers. In addition, the district is adding a full 8-lane all weather running track. Our current track is in such bad shape that officials have warned us that they will not be able to sanction competitions much longer. We also plan to replace the existing grass football field with a new artificial turf field with proper drainage. This multi-sport turf field will allow our student athletes more practice and play time as well as the ability to expand our athletic program (ie. lacrosse).

We both know how much pride the Cheektowaga community has in its schools. Capital projects like this one help keep our facilities in good working order and improve the conditions in which our children learn and play. We thank you for your past support of our district budgets and past capital projects. We need and appreciate your support of this important project as well. Please come out and vote on October 11, 2016.

In this newsletter you will find specific details on the repairs and upgrades needed for our children to have a safe well maintained learning environment. We encourage you to vote on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the High School on Union Road.

Renee Wilson,  
School Board President

Mary Morris,  
Superintendent

## PLEASE VOTE!

**PUBLIC REFERENDUM  
DATE:**

**Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

**Noon – 9 pm**

**High School Band Room**

\*Please park in main (south) lot and use side entrances (adjacent to the parking lot) into the music area.

You are eligible to vote if you are:

- A legal resident of the Cheektowaga Central School District for at least 30 days,
- Age 18 or older, and
- A citizen of the United States.

Identification will be required. The preferred forms are a Board of Elections' card, driver's license, postmarked mail, rental/lease receipt, a non-driver identification card or a utility bill.

Absentee ballots are available from the District Clerk's office. The completed application must be returned to the district no later than Monday, October 10 to obtain an absentee ballot. The completed absentee ballot must be received by the district clerk by 5 pm on the day of the vote, October 11.



# Cheektowaga Central's Capital Improvement Project

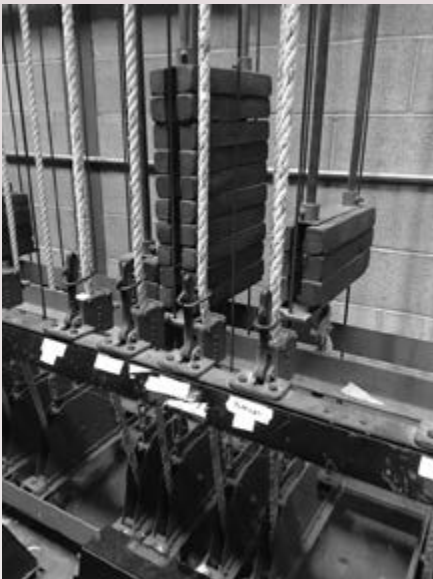
**VOTE: Tuesday, October 11 • Noon – 9 PM**  
**High School Band Room**



*Deteriorated piping at the high school*



*Disintegrating concrete at pool*



*Original stage rigging in auditorium, circa 1969*

## **Q . Why is the district having a bond vote?**

**A.** Cheektowaga Central is committed to providing a safe learning environment and well-maintained facilities for students and public use. Similar to upkeep and repairs in your home as it ages, our school buildings are aging and are in dire need of attention. Many routine repairs and projects are funded with the annual District budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. Large repairs and facility upgrades such as those in this capital project totaling approximately \$25 million, would have a major impact on the tax rate if they were included in the annual budget. A bond issue is a fiscally responsible alternative, because the State reimburses Cheektowaga for approximately 60% of the cost, and the expenses are spread out over a longer period of time.

## **Q. Why is this work necessary?**

**A.** Every five years, all school districts are required by the State to have a certified architect review the condition of their buildings and grounds. In 2015, our architectural consultant, Gordon W. Jones Associates, examined Cheektowaga's facilities and "red flagged" significant problem areas, many of which are health and safety items. The district is addressing these issues now, rather than delay and face future higher costs and further deterioration.

## **Q. How were the specific projects chosen?**

**A.** Of the \$25 million, the majority of work addresses critical health and safety or accessibility concerns, upgrades to be more energy efficient, and fixer-upper items that have short life span or are eye-sores. Much of our building systems, including HVAC, mechanical, electrical and plumbing are more than two decades old and need replacing. Refurbishing the high school auditorium became a high priority because the ceiling is crumbling, the seats are irreparable, and the stage rigging and curtains are major safety concerns. Priority was also given to athletic facilities that are heavily used by students both during and outside the school day.

## **Q. What impact will this bond project have on school taxes?**

**A.** Approval of this bond issue would add about 13¢ per \$1,000 assessed valuation to the school tax rate starting in 2018-2019.

## **Q. How will this project help with energy and water conservation?**

**A.** The District expects to see savings in utility costs after project completion. Installing energy efficient & LED lighting, replacing boilers, replacing inefficient 1950-1970 vintage plumbing fixtures, and installing new rooftop HVAC units and air handling units will help to alleviate rising utility expenses.

## **Q. When will the work take place?**

**A.** It is expected that the State Education Department's approval will be received by December 2017 and the project will start in the spring of 2018 and continue through the fall of 2019.

# Project Scope Highlights by Building

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## High School/Middle School Complex

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance to meet code – fire/smoke alarms, carbon monoxide, accessibility, emergency lighting
- Install new fire-rated classroom doors
- Replace auditorium stage rigging, curtains, seating and sound system
- Renovate boys and girls lavatories
- Replace Boilers, HVAC units, Air Handling Units and Exhaust Fans
- Change out various lighting systems with LED type
- Replace 1958 and 1963 original plumbing fixtures
- Replace 1958 corroding galvanized steel piping
- Expand wireless data network coverage
- Asphalt paving and concrete work
- 8-lane all weather running track, drainage, fencing
- Multi-sport artificial turf field, fencing and storm-water pollution prevention system drainage
- New grandstands, digital scoreboard and lighting
- Reconstruct tennis courts with drainage and fencing

## Union East Elementary School

- ADA compliance to meet code
- Renovate boys and girls lavatories
- Expand wireless data network coverage
- Replace HVAC unit and boiler
- Swap out 1969 wiring devices
- Masonry restoration on exterior and at the pool
- Asphalt paving
- Upgrade electrical work and LED lighting
- Replace pool HVAC unit

## Pine Hill Education Center

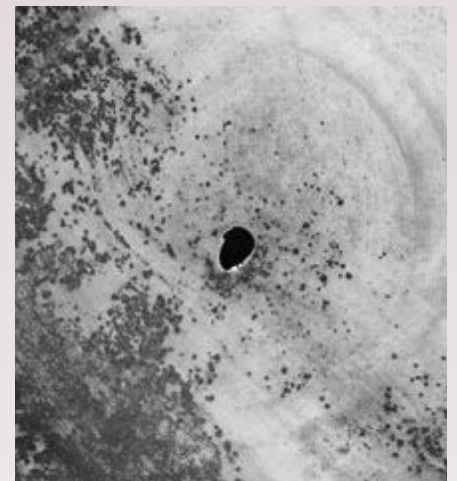
- ADA compliance to meet code
- Expand wireless data network coverage
- Upgrade lighting systems with LED type
- Replace entire roofing system
- Repave asphalt drives and parking areas
- Replace 1970 plumbing fixtures
- Replace cabinet unit heaters
- Replace old and worn carpeting and flooring
- Construct new walls, doors, additional windows required by code



*Masonry work needed at pool wall*



*Worn out all weather track long-jump runway*



*Roof at Pine Hill needs replacement*

**CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

3600 Union Road  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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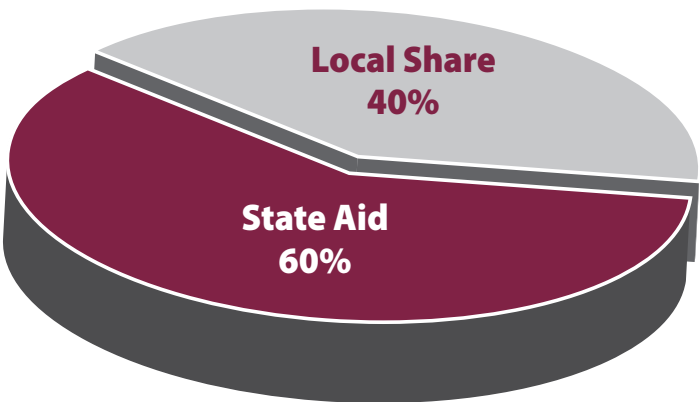
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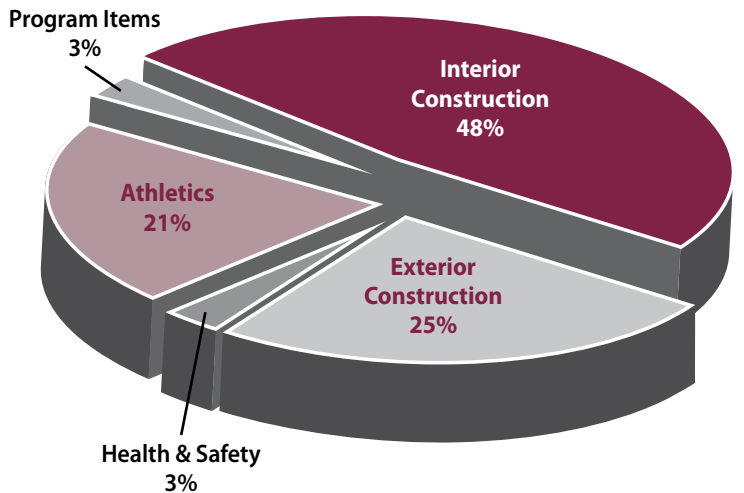
**Current Resident**

**SPECIAL BOND VOTE: Tuesday, October 11 • Noon – 9 PM • High School Band Room**

**Source of Funds**



**Breakdown by Function**



**Tax Rate Increase:**  
Cost to \$100,000 market value house is \$12.76 annually; about \$1.06 per month

**Referendum Value:**  
\$24,830,850 financed totally from low-interest borrowing

