



Capital Improvements Project

Comprehensive project reaches every corner of the district;
community to consider plan on December 6

Dear Residents:

On December 6, 2016, Susquehanna Valley will ask voters to consider a capital project (with work to begin in 2018) that will be an outstanding opportunity for the community with **zero increase** to the tax levy. We will also ask voters to approve creation of a new Capital Reserve Fund.

The Susquehanna Valley Central School District has a long standing tradition of providing our students and community with great facilities and grounds. Continuing on with that tradition, the Board of Education, along with the Facilities Advisory Committee, has worked diligently over the past year to put together a comprehensive capital project that addresses three areas of need which will help to ensure the longevity of our facilities:

- **Health and Safety**
- **Energy and Maintenance**
- **Instructional**

The estimated total cost for this project will be \$15,231,000. New York State Education Department aid will cover 83.8% of the project cost with the capital reserves accounting for the remaining local share, resulting in a **No Tax Increase** capital project.

District residents can learn more about the project on Monday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. in the Richard T. Stank Middle School cafeteria and Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 p.m. at Brookside Elementary School.

From now until the December vote, members of our Facilities Advisory Committee will attend selected activities with concept display boards of the project, and will answer questions and explain the project components. Please take the opportunity to carefully look over these display boards. Project information will be posted on the district website, and we will send home backpack flyers and informational post cards in the coming months.

Voting will take place Tuesday, December 6, 12:00 (noon) - 9:00 p.m. in the Susquehanna Valley High School gymnasium.

We would like to thank the Facilities Advisory Committee, composed of community members and school personnel, for their many hours of time and dedicated work in developing this project.

Roland Doig, Superintendent of Schools

Robert Strick, President of the Board of Education

Capital Project dates to remember:

Public Hearings

- Monday, November 14, 6:30 p.m.
Richard T. Stank Middle School
- Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 p.m.
Brookside Elementary School

Capital Project Vote
Tuesday, December 6, 12:00 (noon) - 9:00 p.m.
SV High School gym

Capital Improvements Project • What's included?

District Wide Communications Upgrade

- Upgrade life safety systems including PA, telephone, and carbon monoxide detectors

.....

Brookside Elementary School



- Classroom renovations including interior finishes, casework, and lighting upgrades
- Site renovations including parking and student drop-off reconfiguration, pavement replacement, and utility upgrades
- Electrical renovations including panel replacement
- Mechanical renovations
- Plumbing renovations including fixture replacement and back-up water heater installation

.....

F.P. Donnelly Elementary School

- Classroom renovations including interior finishes, casework, and lighting upgrades
- Electrical utility renovations
- Plumbing renovations including fixture replacement and backflow device installation
- Mechanical renovations including gymnasium unit replacement



Richard T. Stank Middle School

- Classroom renovations including interior finishes, casework, and lighting upgrades
- Corridor locker replacement
- Kitchen and serving area reconstruction



- Mechanical renovations including back-up water heater installation
- Exterior renovations including masonry restoration, door replacement, and window replacement
- Site renovations including utility upgrades and athletic fields

.....

Susquehanna Valley High School

- Classroom renovations including interior finishes, casework, and lighting upgrades
- Artificial turf multi-purpose field and track reconstruction; scoreboard replacement
- Relocate CSE offices
- Electrical renovations including utility upgrades
- Mechanical renovations including unit ventilator replacement
- Stage flooring replacement



A concept design of what the new artificial turf multi-purpose field would look like, replacing the higher-maintenance grass fields we currently use.



Industrial Arts Building

- Boiler replacement
- Site renovations including pavement replacement and drainage upgrades
- Relocate CSE office to high school

.....

Bus Maintenance Garage

- Site renovations including pavement replacement
- Building renovations including bus lift replacement and ventilation system installation



.....

Brookside Bus Garage

- Fuel storage tank replacement and fire alarm modifications

.....



Financial Information • Timeline

Project cost	\$15,231,000
Less state aid & debt service	\$12,531,000
Less capital reserve funds	\$2,700,000
LOCAL TAX INCREASE	\$0

* The District's current state building aid ratio is 83.8% for eligible items. 95% of total project costs for this referendum will be reimbursed by state building aid.

Project Timeline • Phase I

December 2016 • Vote on referendum
Spring 2017 • Plans submitted to SED
Spring 2018 • Project out for bid
Summer 2018 • Construction begins
Fall 2018 • Phase I completed

Project Timeline • Phase II

Spring 2018 • Plans submitted to SED
Winter 2018 • Project out for bid
Spring 2019 • Construction begins
Fall 2019 • Project completed

A look at the December 6 ballot

Proposition I: Capital Improvements Project • Voting yes to this proposition authorizes the district to proceed with a capital improvements project not to exceed the amount of \$15,231,000 for planned infrastructure renovations of district facilities.

Proposition II: Capital Reserve Fund • Voting yes to this proposition, which is NOT contingent on the approval of Proposition I, authorizes the district to establish a Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed the amount of \$10,000,000, and for the duration of ten years.

Questions and answers

Why is this project necessary?

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires all school Districts to complete two evaluations every five years: a Building Condition Survey and a Five Year Plan. The reports completed in 2010 and 2015 indicated the need to maintain aging infrastructure. Some of the infrastructure components in portions of our building have reached the end of their useful life and other components are showing signs of deterioration and need to be replaced.

Why can't the items included in the Capital Project be completed using the current school budget funds?

The majority of the items in this project are NOT normal maintenance and are at the end of their useful life. Normal maintenance items are not aidable. If the District completed project items under normal maintenance, the District

would lose allocated state aid resulting in a greater tax increase because the cost would be absorbed by the General Fund.

Why is the district choosing to install a synthetic field?

District staff and members of the Susquehanna Valley Facilities Advisory Committee have reviewed the options and have chosen to propose a synthetic turf field for several reasons including added utilization, durability, cost effectiveness, and safety.

Added utilization • A synthetic turf field can be used for multiple sports and community events, and earlier in the spring than a natural grass field.

Durability • The field could be used by multiple teams in the same season and during inclement weather.

Cost-effectiveness • Synthetic turf fields require significantly less maintenance

than grass surface fields.

Safety • Research indicates injury rates are lower on synthetic turf as compared to natural grass. This is particularly true when the grass begins to deteriorate from heavy use and poor drainage.

What happens if the project is not approved?

If voters reject the proposed plan in December, the infrastructure and health and safety issues will still need to be addressed. We only receive aid on capital projects – not maintenance expenses; therefore, when a building component fails, the district will have to make necessary repairs using money from the school budget with no state aid. This means the full expense would be paid for by local taxes. If these issues are not dealt with in a timely matter it will cost more in the future as deterioration and inflation increase.





YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

When: December 6, 2016 - 12:00 (noon) to 9:00 p.m.

Where: SV High School Gymnasium

Important Reminder

The SV School District requires voters to **produce identification / proof of residency and age** prior to entering the voting booth.

Voter requirements:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the district for the last 30 days prior to December 6

Absentee ballots:

Absentee ballots are available for qualified voters who cannot appear in person due to illness or physical disability; out of town due to business, studies or duties; out of town on vacation; or detained in jail awaiting action by grand jury, awaiting trial, or confined in prison for an offense other than a felony.

To request an application for an absentee ballot, qualified voters should call Karen Mullins, Secretary to the Superintendent, at 607.775.9100.

Applications for an absentee ballot must be received by the district clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally by the voter.

Learn more about the project

- **Public Hearings: November 14, 2016 • 6:30 p.m., Richard T. Stank Middle School cafeteria and November 15, 2016 • 6:30 p.m., Brookside Elementary School cafeteria**
- **Contact the public information coordinator at 607.775.9124.**



Susquehanna Valley
Central School District
P.O. Box 200
Conklin, NY 13748
(607) 775-0170
www.svsabers.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3
Conklin, NY

RESIDENT