



Sandy Creek

Central School
District
Newsletter

CAPITAL PROJECT SPECIAL EDITION



A Letter from the Board of Education to SCCS District Residents:

The Sandy Creek Central School District Board of Education (BOE) encourages you to take the opportunity to vote on our Capital Project to improve the quality of our educational environment and to maintain our present infrastructure in the District. The scope of this project is outlined within this special Capital Project informational newsletter.

Over the past two years, the BOE, district staff and construction building partners have worked together to assemble this capital project to benefit the students, staff and residents of the Sandy Creek School District. We believe that this capital project will position the District to deliver the educational environment our children deserve to be better prepared for their post K-12 lives in our community.

There are two propositions that will be presented to vote upon.

Proposition 1: The number-one priority of the BOE was to address critical needs to our infrastructure and improve the safety of our students and staff. In addition to existing facility upgrades, we propose building a new bus maintenance facility and acquiring two small parcels of property to improve safety and access to and from campus for both our buses as well as those vehicles from the local municipalities who share in our fueling station. Additional scope highlights are provided within this newsletter. The cost of this proposition is minimal and will impact the local taxpayer for 2 years only.

Proposition 2: The BOE also looked at items they felt would be of significant benefit to the District and community but would incur additional cost to our local tax payers. As a result, we are asking you to consider upgrading our stadium facility to include installation of an 8 lane track and multi-use' natural grass field. Proposition 2 cannot pass unless Proposition 1 also passes. While there is an increased cost associated with proposition #2, the District kept the scope of the project to a minimum and only included those items deemed necessary. The costs of this proposition will be over a 15 year bonding period of a non-compounding average of \$0.9653 (less than \$1.00) per assessed \$1,000 value of property. Please see the charts within this newsletter to see what the impact would be to you.

More specifically, all work will be paid for using a combination of state aid funding, cash from our capital project reserve funds established and built up by the district, EXCEL Aid, Smart School Bond Act, expiring debt from the previous large capital project and tax payer local share. All of these factors will enable SCCS to fund the work in Proposition 1 at a relatively minor/nominal local tax impact. The SCCS average non-vacant residential property is assessed at \$90,132. The impact of proposition #1 to this average SCCS taxpayer with the basic STAR exemption would be an annual non-compounding investment of \$9.02 for 2 years, a total investment of \$18.04 for the entire proposition. Proposition 1 and 2 (Proposition 2 cannot pass unless Proposition 1 passes) would see the impact for that same SCCS average taxpayer with Basic STAR changing from a 2 year plan to a 15 year plan of an average non-compounding \$58.04 per year with a total investment of \$870.71 spread over 15 years.

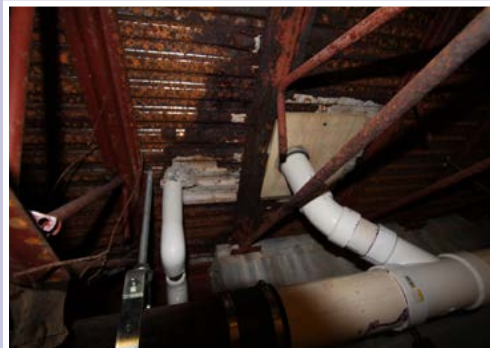
We have included a number of exciting changes that we are confident will benefit students and taxpayers of the Sandy Creek Central School District.

An informational meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandy Creek District Office Board Room and we encourage you to attend.

Your vote is important and we encourage you to let your voice be heard on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. Voting will take place at the Sandy Creek District Office Board Room from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.

Thank you,

The Sandy Creek Central School District Board of Education



Sandy Creek Central School District





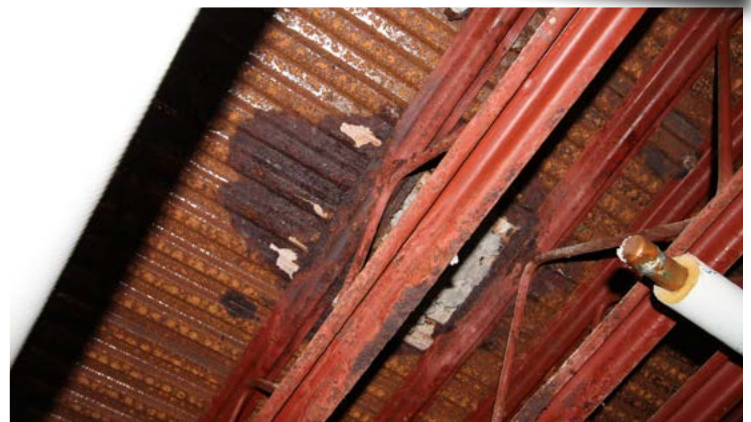
- **Main Building Infrastructure**
- **Two (2) Property Acquisitions**
- **New Bus Maintenance Facility**
- **Minor Upgrades to Existing Bus Garage**

Referendum Amount:
\$19,391,000

Architectural floor plan of the main building showing various renovation areas highlighted in yellow, green, and grey. Labels with leader lines point to specific areas:

- COOLER/FREEZER UPGRADES
- RECESS DOORS AT BAND ROOM
- PROVIDE SECURE ENTRY
- REPAIR LOADING DOCK
- STRUCTURAL DECK REPAIR BELOW
- ELEVATOR UPGRADES
- ABATEMENT & CARPET REPLACEMENT
- MASONRY RESTORATION
- REPLACE GYM ENTRY & PROVIDE CANOPY
- MASONRY RESTORATION
- PROVIDE SECURE ENTRY

**Public
Information
Meeting**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015
6:30 p.m.
SC District Office Board Room



New Bus Maintenance Facility



Site Work - Proposition 1



Proposition 1 - \$19,391,000 Scope of Work

- **Main Building**
 - Secure Points of Entry and Building Security Enhancements
 - Repair Loading Dock
 - Abatement and Carpet Replacement
 - Replace Gym Entry and Provide Canopy
 - Masonry Restoration
 - Cooler/Freezer Upgrades
 - Roof Restoration
 - Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Improvements
- **Land Acquisitions (2)**
- **New 10,400 SF Bus Maintenance Facility**
- **Old Bus Garage**
 - Paint Exterior and Interior
 - Add Weather Stripping to Overhead Doors
 - Construct Roof Overhang
- **Sitework**
 - Replace Emergency Access Road
 - Replace Pavement at Entrances
 - Replace Asphalt Drive

Capital Project Vote

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015
12:00 Noon to 8:00 p.m.
Sandy Creek
District Office Board Room

please
remember to
vote!



Proposition #2

- 8-Lane Track and Multi-Use Natural Grass Field
- Home Bleachers Press Box (500 seats)
- Visitor Bleachers (100 seats)
- Stadium Entry

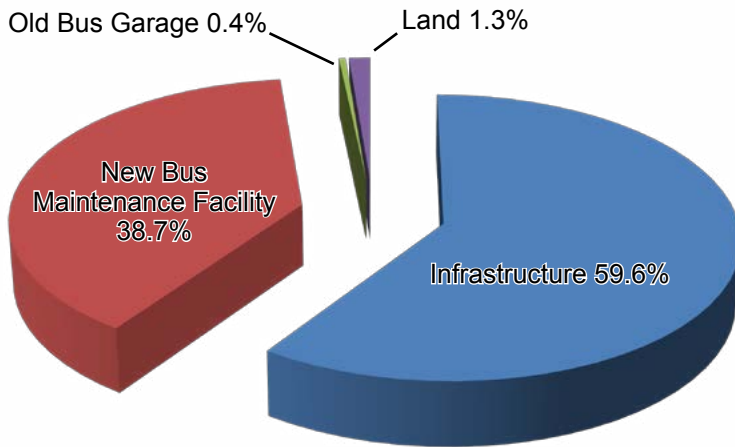
Referendum Amount:
\$5,533,611





Proposition #1

\$19,391,000

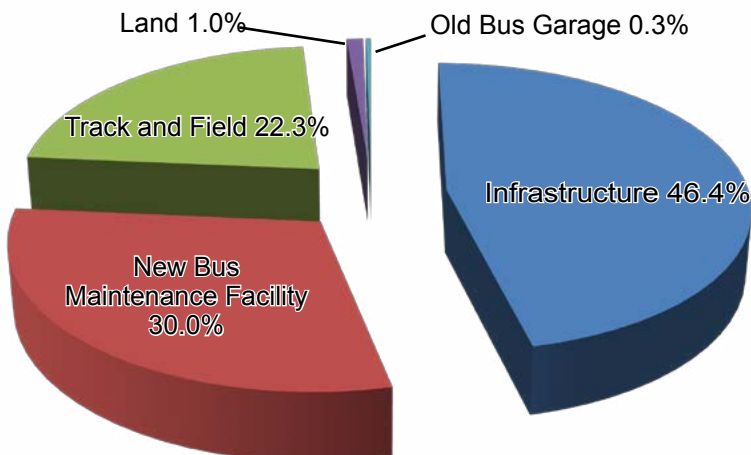


- Infrastructure
- New Bus Maintenance Facility
- Old Bus Garage
- Land

Propositions 1 & 2

\$24,924,611

- Infrastructure
- New Bus Maintenance Facility
- Track and Field
- Land
- Old Bus Garage



Capital Project Financing

Proposition 1

Assessed Value	Basic STAR	Enhanced STAR
\$50,000		
Annual Investment	\$3.00	\$0.00
2 Year Total Investment	\$6.00	\$0.00
\$90,132 (Avg. SC Taxpayer)		
Annual Investment	\$9.02	\$3.72
2 Year Total Investment	\$18.04	\$7.45
\$100,000		
Annual Investment	\$10.50	\$5.21
2 Year Total Investment	\$21.00	\$10.42
\$150,000		
Annual Investment	\$18.00	\$12.71
2 Year Total Investment	\$36.00	\$25.42
\$200,000		
Annual Investment	\$25.50	\$20.21
2 Year Total Investment	\$51.00	\$40.42

Proposition 1 & Proposition 2

Assessed Value	Basic STAR	Enhanced STAR
\$50,000		
Avg. Annual Investment	\$19.31	\$0.00
15 Year Total Investment	\$289.65	\$0.00
\$90,132 Avg. SC Taxpayer		
Avg. Annual Investment	\$58.04	\$23.97
15 Year Total Investment	\$870.71	\$359.56
\$100,000		
Avg. Annual Investment	\$67.57	\$33.50
15 Year Total Investment	\$1,013.60	\$502.45
\$150,000		
Avg. Annual Investment	\$115.84	\$81.76
15 Year Total Investment	\$1,737.61	\$1,226.46
\$200,000		
Avg. Annual Investment	\$164.11	\$130.03
15 Year Total Investment	\$2,461.60	\$1,950.46





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Sandy Creek Central School District

Q: What is a capital project?

A: It is like home improvements for schools. By New York State law, a school district is required to inspect its property regularly, working with an architect to maintain a five-year, capital improvement plan. Some issues require immediate attention, while other repairs and upgrades can be spread out over time.

This is done in much the same way a homeowner plans to fund major repairs, such as a roof. For school districts, this is called a “capital project”. To further encourage schools to maintain or improve their facilities, the New York State Education Department (SED) reimburses districts through “building aid” for capital projects. SED pays a percentage of capital project costs, and the district pays the balance known as “local share”.

The District’s current state building aid ratio is 83.2%, meaning the State will reimburse the District for 83.2% of the costs of aid-eligible work, with the District needing to provide only 16.8% of the costs (referred to as “local share”). Upon commissioner approval of a project the aid ratio is guaranteed.

Q: Why do we need another Capital Project?

A: The focus of these propositions differs from previous Capital Projects. Proposition 1 focuses on infrastructure upgrades, safety and security enhancements at the Main Campus; A new Bus Maintenance Facility; acquisition of 2 small parcels and minor improvements to the existing bus garage. Proposition 2 focuses on providing a new track and reconstructing a natural grass, multi-purpose athletic field.

In 1999 (and 2001), the District voted the \$32.5 million dollar project that mainly consisted of work necessary to consolidate to one (1) main campus. Major building additions were completed, including the Elementary School, Middle School and Gym / Field House. Roofing was also completed in this project. What many of us still think of as “new”, is now approaching 15 years old. Some systems are approaching the end of their useful life (ie: roofing warranty expires next year, and some mechanical equipment is failing), and it will be almost 2 years before construction work begins, if this project is approved.

In 2008, the District voted a \$3.1 million EXCEL project. That project focused on Health and Safety improvements; technology (CAT 5 cabling) and energy efficiency (lighting and boiler replacements).

Q: What is included in this proposed project?

A: The Capital Project proposal is broken down into separate propositions so voters have a choice. Work included in Propositions 1 and 2 is identified throughout this newsletter.

Proposition 1: Much of the work at the Main Building involves repairs or replacement of aging infrastructure (roofing,

mechanical, electrical plumbing systems). Improvements to safety and security are much needed given current environment relative to K-12 schools.

Our existing bus garage is very old, outdated and does not function well for current needs. We wish to maintain the existing bus garage in order to store our busses, and are proposing some very minor work necessary to maintain the building. The new bus maintenance facility will provide a safe, handicap-accessible and appropriate working environment for our mechanics, staff and drivers. An automated bus-wash bay will increase the life of our busses.

Also included in Proposition 1 is the acquisition of two small parcels of land. The property to the east will allow a secondary means of ingress and egress to the new bus maintenance facility. This will improve safety of both pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic by allowing an alternate route, without constantly passing through our existing vehicular parking areas. The second property, which is located in the front of the main campus, will allow a contiguous and continuous property boundary to the southwest. Future opportunities for this parcel may allow expansion of parking, or appropriate “green space”, improving the approach to the campus.

Proposition 2: Involves reconstructing our existing main athletic field and the addition of an all purpose running / events track. We have always supported a successful track and field team, but do not have facilities within the District, like most school districts. The track will also allow additional physical education teaching opportunities.

As an additional benefit, we’ve heard from many other Districts that the addition of a track has been widely used and appreciated by the community, as a safe and comfortable venue to walk or jog. We would expect the Sandy Creek community to enjoy this benefit as well, and will accommodate access when not used for school or athletic events.

Q: What will be the impact of the project on our taxes?

A: Proposition 1: The proposed overall project cost is \$19,391,000. State Building Aid will comprise 83.2% of funding necessary to complete this project. Impact on taxes is extremely nominal.

Additionally, the District, through sound financial planning, is proposing utilizing the following monies to offset the “local share”:

- \$479,636 in EXCEL funding (State Provided)
- \$966,642 of Smart-School Bond Funds (State Provided)
- \$2,009,628 from Capital Reserve Fund
- \$675,000 Transportation Reserve Fund (for New Bus Maintenance Facility Equipment)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Sandy Creek Central School District

Proposition 2: The proposed cost of Proposition 2 is \$5,533,611, and is contingent on the approval of Proposition 1. The combined total of Propositions 1 and 2 is \$24,924,611.

Because of the complicated formulas the State uses to calculate Building Aid, the "local share" of the combined Propositions has a higher cost to the taxpayers. Please refer to the chart provided for estimated tax, based on your property value.

Q: Remind us...What is EXCEL Aid and Smart Schools Bond Act?

A: EXCEL funds are the result of the fiscal equity lawsuit brought by New York City against the State of NY. The settlement resulted in the city receiving the necessary funds, but lawmakers could not leave "upstate" out of the equation and EXCEL was born. **EX**panding our **C**hildren's **E**ducation and **L**earning **A**id.

The district utilized a portion of the granted EXCEL funds in a previous project and currently has a balance of \$479,636 available to use.

The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) was passed and enacted in the general election in November of 2014. The purpose and intent of the funding is to finance technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunities for students throughout the State. The District was awarded \$1,306,298 of SSBA funds, and has identified approximately \$966,642 of capital project work that falls under the definition for allowable use of these funds.

These State funded aid opportunities are intended to offset the taxpayers' local contribution of construction and repair costs. As required by law, voter approval is needed to receive any portion of the funding.

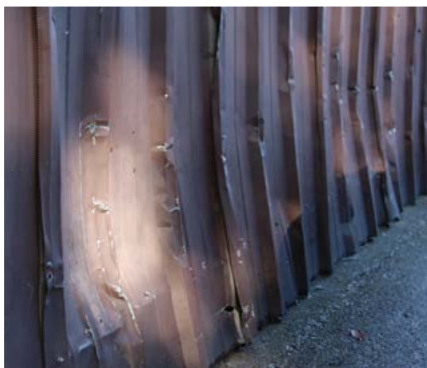
Q: Why now?

A: The timing is right. Over time, our facility needs will continue to grow, not diminish or go away. We don't expect SED's contribution to capital project costs to get any better than they are right now.

We also know that construction costs continue to escalate with each passing year. The construction industry is a very competitive

marketplace right now. Owners who can undertake construction in this climate benefit from lower material and labor costs.

If we choose to wait and pursue the same project in the future, we would expect the cost to the taxpayers to be higher.



Q: Will this project complete our capital improvement needs?

A: Frankly, no. Our buildings continue to age, and our facility needs are large and on-going.

Our facilities host over 1,000 people every day...students, staff and visitors...walking on our floors, opening and closing our lockers, doors and windows, playing in our gyms, eating in our cafeterias, driving and parking on our roads and in our lots, and playing on our play fields. Normal wear and tear and the effects of time have taken their toll on our buildings and grounds.

Acting with fiscal responsibility, we wish to minimize the cost to our taxpayers, while maintaining safe, healthy and appropriate facilities and learning environments for our students, staff and community. We would expect additional Capital Project needs to arise in the future.

Q: What happens if the Capital Project is NOT approved?

A: Costs could go up. The Board of Education will re-evaluate its proposal and make a decision. However, the financing for this project will allow the District to spread payments for the work over several years to correspond with the building aid that we receive from the State. If not approved, some of the items will need to be addressed in the annual operating budget, and would generate NO State Building Aid (100% local share).

Q: If the project is approved by the voters, when will the work be completed?

A: After voter approval, time will be necessary for the architects and engineers to complete the plans and specifications and then submit them to the State Education Department for approval (SED issues our "building permit"). In addition to the time necessary for plan preparation, the approval process from the State is currently taking 10+ months.

We are investigating the possibility of submitting an "early package" to the State to try to capture the 2016 summer construction season, but the majority of construction work is planned to commence in 2017.

Q: How can we learn more about the project? What if we have additional questions?

A: We encourage the community to attend a Public Information session on Thursday, October 22nd, at 6:30 pm, in the District Office Board Room. You may also contact the Superintendent, Business Administrator or any member of the Board of Education.

**Sandy Creek Central
School District**

P.O. Box 248
124 Salisbury St.
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 7
Zip Code 13145

Phone: 315-387-3445
Fax: 315-387-2196
District Office: Ext. 1510
Business Office: Ext. 1510
Elementary: Ext. 1110
Middle School/High School: Ext. 1910
Nurses' Offices:
Elementary - Ext. 1503; HS - Ext. 1505
Transportation: Ext. 3330

Postal Patron



Sandy Creek Central School District

**Sandy Creek Central
School District 2014-15
Board of Education**

*Brian MacVean,
President
Janet Hanni,
Vice President
James Dowlearn
Amy Guarasce
Tammy Miller
Deanna Soule
Brenda Yerdon*

Superintendent:
Mr. Stewart R. Amell
**Business Administrator/
District Clerk:**
Shelley H. Fitzpatrick

Principals:
Elementary:
Bonnie Finnerty
Middle School:
Carolyn Shirley
High School:
Maureen Shiel



*please
remember to
vote!*

Can't Make it to the Polls?

VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

If you would like an absentee ballot, you may pick up an application in the District Office by Tuesday, November 10. If you would like to pick up an absentee ballot, the application must be returned in person to the District Clerk by Monday, Nov. 16. Ballots must be received in the District Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 248
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Physical Address:

124 Salisbury St.
Sandy Creek, NY 13145



Who Can Vote?

Qualified voters are legal residents of the Sandy Creek School District 18 years of age and older and are registered voters. The Sandy Creek Central School District (SCCS) has personal registration. Registered voters are either currently registered with the County Board of Elections or with SCCS Board of Registration. The Board of Registration will meet on November 6, 2015 between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 p.m. to register new voters.

