

Questions raised during Capital Project Presentations

Q: Will the 84% aide back from NYS ever change during the 15 year payback on this loan?

A: Very tricky formula but in short, aid is based on our RWADA and wealth of the district (income tax and property wealth). The RWADA is not enrollment numbers but calculated pupil units. Unless the District gets very wealthy or very poor, have half the kids leave or get an influx of children, this number should stay around the 84.4% but it will change on a year-to-year basis. It should stay in the mid 80% range as it currently is throughout the 15 years of the project amortization. The interest rate will be calculated based on a statewide average of debt incurred by districts during each school year. So whatever that rate is, during the year that our project is approved by the Commissioner, will be the interest rate that the state will use for the amortization.

Q: What year was the Greenlawn building built?

A: 1959

Q: What changes are proposed for the Jr-Sr High School main entrance?

A: The main entrance will become handicap accessible with a gradual incline/ramp approaching the main entrance from the left side as you face the entrance.

Q: Does the proposal for air conditioning on the second floor of the High School include the Annex (Tech building)?

A: In phase 1, AC will not be added to the Annex-Tech building.

Q: Will the equipment in the current fitness room be relocated to the new fitness area? Yes it will be. How will that new area be configured (one large room?)? Will there be climate control in the Fitness Center? Will there be a charge for community members to use the Fitness Center? Are there liability issues that we need to be aware of with opening this up to community members or can we handle it like we do with the adult groups who use the building now for basketball and pickle ball?

A: We will research and investigate what other districts have done successfully with this type of configuration. It will be an open floor plan with some new equipment added to our existing equipment. We will consult with the school attorneys on how best to accommodate the public.

Q: Will the drainage problems be fixed at the High School?

A: Yes the drainage problems will be addressed during the capital project.

Q: Regarding the new playground at Greenlawn, there are several new pieces of equipment that were recently installed, Are we replacing them and if so, why?

A: The new pieces will be incorporated into the new playground designs at Greenlawn with additional pieces added.

Q: Will the trail through the woods get lighting and a better walking surface?

A: The trail lighting will be addressed separately and independent of the Capital project.

Q: Why are we putting air conditioning [maybe we should call it climate control?] in the Greenlawn Cafeteria?

A: We felt that because this is where student testing occurs and it is used as the school auditorium that this was necessary.

Q: Regarding the Guilford playground, will teachers have input in the design? Will the old swings be taken away? Once the architects present us with design options we will ask for staff input.

A: If the existing swings are deemed unsafe they will be removed.

Q: Has air conditioning been considered for the second floor at Guilford?

A: It has, but at this point it is cost prohibitive.

Q: Is the Annex the Tech Building?

A: Yes it is.

Q: Is air conditioning common in other school districts?

A: Many schools during renovations are now incorporating climate control into their projects.

Q: Will there be soundproofing above the fitness center?

A: We will present this question to the architects.

Q: What will this do to my tax bill? When does the 1% start? Are there any other options?

A: Year one will be a 0% increase, year's 2-4, a 1/3% increase and starting year 5, a 1% increase. If your home assessment is \$100,000 your monthly bill will increase \$1.61/month. I am not sure at this time there are other options as these scope items have been deemed a "high priority" on our building conditions survey.

Q: Will Phase II overlap paying off Phase I?

A: Yes phase two will be presented to the community in 5 years. The bond payback for phase 1 is a 15 year bond.

Q: Where will the vote be held?

A: Guilford residents will vote at the Guilford Town Hall and Bainbridge residents will vote at Greenlawn elementary school on March 22 from noon until 9:00 p.m.

Q: Is there a list of Phase II projects?

A: At this time the building conditions survey identifies items that need attention and we will build phase two from that list.

Q: Can the space between the Jr-Sr MPR and the Annex be reworked?

A: Due to aid restrictions and the formula NYS uses to calculate aid the two structures cannot be joined.

Q: Since we are replacing boilers, will we be considering a geothermal system?

A: Our boilers are approximately 28 years old, they are showing signs of cracking and pitting. We have considered geothermal systems early but quickly reduced this scope due to cost of this type of system. We also investigated the annual maintenance cost effecting the budget of this type of system and found it quite high. Geothermal systems in our area would still require some sort of “back up” heat source, either electric heat pumps or back up boiler. We are proposing “dual fuel” (Fuel oil/Gas) high efficient boilers.

Q: What is the life of a playground? How old is the playground at Guilford?

A: The “Big Toys” product series was discontinued in 1993. Replacement parts have been phased out since 2012. It is the inspector’s professional opinion, based on condition, that it has exceeded its useful life and should be replaced. Minor repairs and “band aid” fixes will not bring the equipment into compliance with current safety standards. Additionally, risk is associated with creating other safety issues with implementation of field retrofits and repairs. Installation was in the mid 1980’s.