



Charlotte Valley Central School

The Office of the Superintendent of Schools
Eric C. Whipple

In December, Charlotte Valley voters will have the chance to vote on a \$13,300,000 capital improvement project to repair and upgrade our school facilities. An information session to share more information about this project will be held in the Elementary Auditorium at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17. We will also host a Senior Citizens breakfast and information session at 9 a.m. Nov. 29 to share information about the project.

I realize that at first glance, \$13 million may seem like a big number, so there are a few things I wanted you to know about this project before the Dec. 6 vote.

State aid available

First of all, much of the cost of this project is aidable. That means the district expects to be reimbursed for 80.8% of all eligible project costs. By tapping into state building aid, Charlotte Valley can bring some state tax dollars back into our own district to offset the local cost. For a property fully assessed at \$100,000, this \$13 million project would cost on average an additional \$19 per year in taxes, \$13 with STAR savings, and \$5 with senior STAR savings.

Using capital reserves

Two years ago, voters approved the creation of a capital reserve fund. This fund allowed the district to set aside unused funds to save up for future capital projects. This type of long-term financial planning can help keep the district's finances more stable year over year. We're asking for your permission to use those funds, which were set aside for times just like this.

What's on the ballot?

By reviewing the district's building condition report and talking with students, employees and community members, we have identified several areas for improvement:

- Renovations to the All-Purpose Room to create a K-12 Library Media Center
- A renovated cafeteria and kitchen to accommodate two serving lines, improve food preparation areas, and increase student seating area.
- Resurfaced athletic track to address safety issues
- Purpose-built classrooms for vocal and instrumental music, elementary science and art
- Dedicated storage space
- Improvements to the building exterior, including window replacement

All of this will be accomplished without changing the footprint of the building.

I hope you'll take time to learn more about this project before the vote in December. A newsletter with more information about the project will be sent to your home, and can be downloaded from this website. Please reach out to my office with any questions you may have.