

Spencer-Van Etten Central School District



Capital Project

Safety. Security. Infrastructure.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Capital Project Vote:

Capital Project Vote

March 16, 2021: Noon-8:00PM

S-VE High School Auditorium Lobby

How was this project developed?

In the 2019-2020 school year and into the summer and fall of 2020-2021 school year, the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District completed a State-mandated Building Condition Survey (BCS). This survey is conducted every five years and is needed to identify facility needs and improvements. SVE district hired an architect firm to complete this process in partnership with the district. Building off this assessment and our previous Capital Projects, the District has been exploring and considering this project as part of its long-range strategic plan and Board of Education goals relating to fiscal stability and financial planning. This capital project falls into three main focal points: safety, security, infrastructure.

What is the purpose of the BCS?

The BCS not only identifies and priorities capital improvements but the data is also utilized to create a 5-year plan so that the District is addressing needed improvements and renovations in a timely and planned manner.

Who is our Architect for this project?

LaBella

Who is our Construction Manager for this project?

C&S

Why did S-VE consider this capital project?

The last capital project in 2014 left many items on the table that were close to the end of their useful life that were not addressed. A majority of the work was identified are items needing to be either repaired or replaced in the near future. The Capital Project is an important step in our plan to protect the investment taxpayers have made in the school facilities.

What items are expected to be completed in this capital project?

Safety

HIGH SCHOOL

- Replace wood siding with non-combustible material, non-ADA door handles, wire glass
- Upgrade PA/Master Clock system, electrical
- Add fire rated glass, window shading
- Replace fire alarm system including CO detection and add emergency lighting

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Replace PA and master clock system, wire glass, generator, transfer switch, emergency panels
- Reattach handrails
- Install emergency exterior lighting

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Replace non fire-rated corridor doors, wire glass, generator, transfer switch, emergency panels
- Upgrade PA/Master Clock system, electrical
- Install emergency exterior lighting

TRANSPORTATION FACILITY

- Replace generator, transfer switch, emergency panel,
- Reattach loose fire proofing
- Upgrade electrical, IT systems
- Install emergency exterior lighting

Security

HIGH SCHOOL

- Secure vestibule

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- (Secure vestibule installation is part of the Smart Schools project being completed Summer of 2021, not proposed Capital Project)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Secure vestibule: includes main office, nurse's office, girl's toilet room spaces

Infrastructure

HIGH SCHOOL

- Replace drainage structures, asphalt, softball infield, boilers, unit ventilators, rooftop units, control wiring, hot water piping, plumbing
- Re-brick, anchor brick panel, brick repointing

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Replace sidewalks, door frames, column bases, window shades, boilers, retro-commissioning, controls wiring, classroom unit ventilator
- Reattach loose ladders, rusted doors, brick repointing
- Repair locker room cracks, drywall ceiling, fire pump seals
- Install isolation valves
- Address water issue in basement and water infiltration at stair addition

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Replace pavement, damaged concrete wall, deteriorated concrete, corroded steel lintels, float glass, sink faucets, water coolers, unit ventilators, controls wiring
- Modify site electrical
- Install switchboard, distribution panel, additional isolation valves, auditorium relief air
- Address corroded framing, close off under stage
- Identify ADA cubby locations
- Masonry repointing
- Retro-commissioning

TRANSPORTATION FACILITY

- Replace pavement, overhead door and opener, windows, bus lifts, oil/water separator, water heater and circulation pump, boiler
- Upgrade vehicle exhaust
- Install heat to dispensers
- Address water damage to exterior, rusted lintels, roof leak

Why do school district's propose capital projects to complete necessary work instead of just including the annual school budget?

School Districts present capital projects to the community due to the fact that they are able to leverage their work and the expense with the support of New York State Building Aid which in Spencer-Van Etten is 85%, which means that the cost of the work is only 15% of what the actual cost would be versus paying the full amount in our regular operating budget.

How can a \$15,770,000 project result in just an average annual local share of \$178,910 which equates to an average tax rate of \$.44 before any STAR or Senior STAR Discounts.

We are able to do this with a combination of savings and state building aid to offset our local annual share.

When will this capital project begin and end?

If approved, the design work will begin starting in March of 2021, and be completed in September of 2021. The design work will be submitted to the State Education Department for approval, and that approval can take six to nine months to complete. After approval by the State Education Department, the project will go out to bid, and bidding will take place with the

goal to have the work should start in the Spring or Summer of 2022 with a completion to follow in the summer of 2023.

Is the capital project necessary now?

The proposed project was developed to address safety, security, and infrastructure. Plans include replacement of items that have the potential to fail and/or are at the end of their warranties or expected useful life. Upgrading these items now will not only provide better experiences for students and staff, it will allow for our facilities to run at maximum efficiency. If these items are not addressed through the Capital Project, the District will not be able to leverage State Building Aid funding and will need to use the general fund operating budget to accomplish some of the immediate safety, security and infrastructure needs, which may impact taxes without the benefit of state building aid that is available to the district through a Capital Project.

What is the financial impact to taxpayers of the project?

Deb- The cost to taxpayers is estimated to be \$30 annually for STAR eligible families on a \$100,000 home, and \$42 annually for Non-STAR eligible families on a \$100,000 home.

What is the Capital Reserve?

The Capital Reserve was approved by the board in May of 2020 and authorized by the taxpayers in June of 2020 during our annual budget vote. This reserve is designated for capital projects such as this one. The District was able to fund this reserve by allocating funds that were left at the end of the 2019-2020 school year of \$300,000 and additional funds of \$106,390.52 from a repair reserve that were transferred in September 2020 plus additional accumulated interest for a total of \$406,403.19.

How Does the Capital Reserve help taxpayers?

The funds from the reserve are used to offset the local share of the cost to the taxpayers. This money is used to reduce the amount of bonding that we would be required to finance. We also have \$323,325 left over from the Smart Schools Project that will also be used towards this project which also helps to offset the local share of the cost to our taxpayers.

What will happen if this capital project referendum is voted down?

The project could be adjusted to a lower amount and placed in front of the community again for a re-vote.

What is the date of the vote date for the capital project?

The vote is scheduled for March 16th, 2021.

What are the safety procedures for voting during COVID?

The plan is for this vote to be held in person. Voting stations will be spread out, disinfected between users and occupancy in the voting space will be limited.

Where can I find out more about this project?

Further questions can be directed to the District Office or email sveinfo@svecsd.org.

What is the difference between the *Capital Project* and the *Smart Schools Project*?

The Capital Project is a culmination of items identified during the districts building condition survey, which is a state mandate to assess the useful life of building systems and equipment.

The Smart Schools Bond Act, approved by New York State voters in 2014, authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the State. In Spencer-Van Etten the district was allocated \$1,174,925.