



Longwood

Life

community unity...be a part of the pride!

Special Bond Issue - September 2017

www.longwood.k12.ny.us

AN INVESTMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Capital Improvement Project Bond Vote: Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Dear Community Residents,

On October 17, 2017, the voters of the Longwood Central School District will be asked to consider a \$39.1 million bond that will improve instructional facilities, provide additional safety and security measures for our students and staff, and have a long-term impact on our instructional programs and district operations.

While we work very hard to care for our buildings and keep them well maintained, we have reached a point at which greater improvements are needed to sustain our facilities.

In preparation for our students' future and the implementation of the next generation of learning standards, we are working with scientists at Brookhaven National Laboratory to design a state-of-the-art STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) laboratory. Elementary schools will have new vibrant and safe playgrounds. Student-athletes and our community groups will have access to a new multipurpose athletic space and will enjoy newly refurbished fields. Safety upgrades will be completed throughout the district with secured access entrances and improved security cameras.

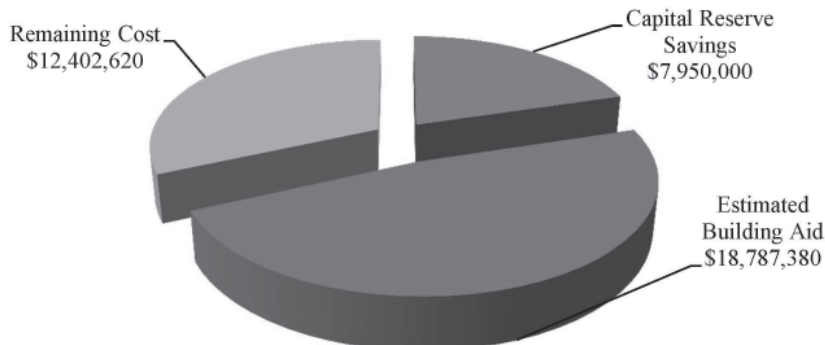
The members of the Board of Education continue to honor our commitment to the district, the children we serve, and the community in which we live. We continue to work diligently to ensure the safety and security of our students and staff, provide the essential instructional support necessary to prepare our children to be college and career ready, and protect our community's investment in our schools. Please be an informed voter and be part of our student's future by voting on Tuesday, October 17.

Sincerely,
Your Board of Education

Frank Muraca, President
Paul Infranco, Vice President

Maureen E. Silvestri, Daniel Tomaszewski, Penelope McGrath, Philip Reany, Jr., David W. Pfister

\$39,140,000 Capital Improvement Project



Project Cost Analysis

Total Cost of Project:	\$39,140,000
Capital Reserve Savings Fund:	\$ 7,950,000
Estimated Building Aid:	\$18,787,380
Remaining Cost:	\$12,402,620

Questions and Answers About the Proposed Bond

How much will the project cost?

The Capital Improvement Project totals \$39,140,000, which will be partially funded through New York State Building Aid at a rate of 68% of the aidable cost of \$27.7 million. The average cost to a home assessed at \$2,280 per year, results in approximately \$43 per year. With voter approval, we will apply \$7.9 million from our Capital Reserve Savings Fund. The Fund is a savings account that was established a number of years ago to address the needs identified in this project.

What is the status of our prior bonds?

There are currently two prior bonds that will be paid off by 2021. Although there remains a cost, this debt will end. The proposed bond will replace a portion of the previous bonds. Our total debt will NOT INCREASE but in fact, WILL DECREASE. The district's excellent credit rating and record low-interest rates will have a profound impact on reducing the cost of borrowing.

Why not fund repairs and renovations through the annual budget?

Large building projects, such as the roofs, windows, and parking lots are too costly to include in a school district annual budget. Through a bond vote, we take advantage of state building aid while spreading the cost over 15 years at historically low borrowing rates. As part of a bond project, site work is eligible for building aid when it is linked to capital work being done at the same school. This amounts to millions of dollars that will be funded by the state, and not directly from property taxpayers, which would not be aided as part of our annual budget.

How does investing in our schools benefit me?

Investing in our district benefits the entire community! By working together, schools, families, and communities can prepare for a more promising future. We protect our property values, and by providing our 9,300 students with the educational environment they deserve, we support their future. Research has shown that students who are supported by their communities attend school regularly, earn higher grades and test scores, graduate and attend college. Linking the community to our schools positively impacts academic achievement and reduces school suspension rates.

Investments in education benefit taxpayers because the investments produce more highly educated individuals, who tend to earn more income than those with lower levels of education. Additionally, highly educated individuals are less likely to draw on social support programs and are less likely to commit crimes. High-performing districts are safer communities which result in increased property values that attract families and business owners who feel an advantage by working and contributing to our school community.

Why are the costs of the projects so high?

School buildings are considered commercial buildings, not residential buildings. Schools are concrete not wood, and

must follow strict state guidelines including building codes, fire and burglar alarms, energy codes, roof warranties, and the buildings must meet ADA safety requirements required by state and federal statutes. To compare costs, a residential home costs approximately \$150-200 per square foot; the cost of a school building can cost approximately \$300-400 a square foot. By law, we are required to adhere to New York State Education Department (NYSED) guidelines, and bid out projects, and they must be paid by prevailing wage, which is dictated by New York State.

How are costs determined in the bond?

The costs of the project are estimates based on current commercial market prices. Since the projects will not begin for at least a year, the estimates include escalation costs. After the NYSED approves the projects, there is a bid process as required by law with the lowest responsible bidder awarded. We are not permitted to bid jobs before NYSED approval.

Why is there a need for a Central Administration building?

Currently, all district directors are housed separately in various school buildings. With an expected increase in student enrollment, classroom space in our elementary schools may be compromised. With all district directors and central office personnel housed in one location, our elementary schools will have an additional 5,000 square feet of instructional space districtwide preventing overcrowding in classrooms. This final phase of the long-term infrastructure renovation will allow for streamline communication between districtwide Administration, grades K-12.

In early 2001, the district underwent a major infrastructure expansion to provide our students and staff with the space required for an excellent educational experience. As always, providing the very best for our students and staff remains the goal of the Board of Education and Central Administration. As part of the 20-year infrastructure plan, the Central Office complex is the last property to be renovated.

Central Office is comprised of three separate buildings residing on the same piece of property: the front building, which was converted into office space, is a designated historic site which is more than 100-years-old. This building will remain but will be dedicated as a community resource center in the future.

The middle building, constructed in 1972, has been the primary complex housing the superintendent, two assistant superintendents, and staff. The building also houses the business office which currently serves more than 9,300 students, 1,800 employees, seven campuses, 17 buildings within 53 square miles. The building is in dire need of renovation, which may be too costly to complete.

There is also a converted construction trailer on the property which was donated to the district at the conclusion of the last major renovation. This trailer houses the assistant superintendent of human resources, personnel, and staff.

For more Q&A about the bond, visit our website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us.

Have additional questions? Email us at BondInfo@Longwoodcsd.org.

Great News for our Community!

JUST IN FROM THE TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Due to recent economic development in our community, the assessed value for Longwood School District has significantly increased for the 2017-2018 school year resulting in a lower tax rate of a .07% for our school community.

An Investment in our Schools is an Investment in our Community

New Capital Projects

- New state-of-the-art STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) laboratory at the Middle School
- To centralize district services and open classroom space, a new administrative facility will be constructed
- Digital signage at the Elementary Schools and High School to provide better community communication
- Upgrade new video stream technology
- Additional parking lots at Ridge Elementary School

Physical Education/Athletics

- Replace deteriorated Junior High School Track
- Replacement of gym bleachers in the Junior High School
- Replacement of six tennis courts at the High School
- Installation of three turf fields, one multipurpose field, and two infields
- Structural spray to repair High School Track
- Additional physical education space at the Junior High School
- Multipurpose physical education space at the High School

Health and Safety

- Eleven new Elementary School playgrounds
- Replace and upgrade fire alarm and public address (PA) system
- New self-contained lobby safety vestibules districtwide
- Additional security cameras with visitor management

Essential Site Improvements

- Districtwide repair of sidewalks, curbs, and parking lots
- Replacement of 20-year-old roof and install solar panels for energy efficiency at the Junior High School
- Districtwide heating, ventilation and cooling system upgrades
- Districtwide exterior and masonry repairs
- Two hundred energy efficient windows at the High School, and eight windows at Charles E. Walters Elementary School
- Boiler repair at the Elementary Schools and High School
- Replace electrical transformers at the Middle School
- Replacement of deteriorating exterior siding on the Operations and Maintenance garage
- Replacement of High School auditorium stage curtains
- Replacement of Middle School carpet



We are proud to announce a 97% graduation rate for the Class of 2017.



For the ninth year, Longwood was named a "Best Community for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation.



Our varsity teams qualify for the NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team Award by maintaining an academic average of 90 or above.

For a complete list of projects, visit our website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us.

Save the Date!

Thursday, September 28

Bond Presentation & Q&A
at the High School at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 17
Bond Vote

6 am - 9 pm all Longwood Elementary Schools

Highlights

- Creation of a new STEAM Lab at the Middle School.
- Increase safety measures and security upgrades for our students and staff.
- New turf fields at the High School, and facility improvements, including playgrounds, sports fields, and bleachers.
- Upgrades and repairs throughout the district including, roof and masonry, and window replacement.
- Addition of solar panels to reduce energy costs.
- Upgrade of new video streaming technology.

Voter Information

Voter Registration

You may register in the Office of the District Clerk, located at 35 Yaphank Middle Island Road, Middle Island, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. You can also register at Central Registration, located at 15 Everett Drive, Yaphank, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. or at any one of the district's seven schools during school hours. You can also register to vote through our website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us - visit the home page and follow the links to Voter Registration. Last day to register to vote is Thursday, October 12.

Voter Eligibility

You must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote, and a resident of Longwood School District for at least 30 days prior to October 17, 2017.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots will be provided to district residents who cannot personally appear because of illness or physical disability, or who are out of the county due to business, studies, or vacation. Contact the District Clerk for further information.

Polling Locations

11727 Coram, 11763 Medford,
and 11766 Mt. Sinai
**CORAM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
61 Coram Mt. Sinai Rd.
Coram, NY

Election District 1

11953 Middle Island and
11764 Miller Place
**WEST MIDDLE ISLAND
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
30 Swezey Lane
Middle Island, NY
Election District 2

11961 Ridge and
11786 Shoreham
**RIDGE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
105 Ridge Rd.
Ridge, NY

Election District 3

11980 Yaphank, 11973 Upton
and 11967 Shirley/E.Yaphank
**CHARLES E. WALTERS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Primary Building
Cafeteria
15 Everett Dr.
Yaphank, NY

Election District 4

Longwood Central Schools

Board of Education

Frank Muraca, *President*
Paul Infranco, *Vice President*
Maureen E. Silvestri
Daniel Tomaszewski
Penelope McGrath
Philip Reany, Jr.
David W. Pfister

Lillian M. Pizzolo, District Clerk

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Michael R. Lonergan

Current Resident



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*****MANWSS***