



January 2017

# GNPS BULLETIN

## BOND REFERENDUM EDITION

### VOTE

**Tuesday, February 14, 2017**  
**7 a.m.–10 p.m.**

- Baker School
- South High School

**O**N TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, Great Neck Public School District residents will have the opportunity to vote on a Bond Referendum that will enhance the continued scholarly success of our students and improve the integrity of our school buildings going forward through the twenty-first century.

**SUPERINTENDENT TERESA PRENDERGAST** has said of the Bond Referendum, “The Bond will sustain Great Neck’s tradition of excellence and help our students remain competitive with their peers in similar districts. The Bond includes educational and building enhancements and critical structural improvements that will preserve our school buildings for decades to come. It will sustain the community’s long-standing investment in its schools.”

**BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT BARBARA BERKOWITZ** explained the need for a Bond Issue: “It has been a daunting task, balancing being fiscally prudent, maintaining the integrity of our aging infrastructure, and ensuring that our educational programs help our students perform competitively and achieve personal success. The Board has tried to manage as many capital needs and educational projects as possible within our regular budget cycle, and also with referendums utilizing our capital reserves. Unfortunately, due to the constraints of the New York State-mandated tax cap, we have not been able to address many much-needed projects. The Bond Issue would provide funds for these projects and also to create an early childhood center at the north end of town, comparable to the one now located in the Parkville School, at the south end of the district. In addition, E.M. Baker School’s enrollment has increased drastically, and with the desire to honor our commitment to maintain relatively small class size, the Baker kindergarten would also be housed in the new early childhood center, just as Lakeville School’s kindergartners attend Parkville.”

THE BOND ISSUE is divided into two areas for improvements: Educational and Building Enhancements and Critical Structural Projects.

**EDUCATIONAL/BUILDING ENHANCEMENTS** were prioritized by each school after many meetings that included the principal, PTA officers, Shared Decision Making Committee members (principal, parents, teachers, and students, on the secondary level), Building Curriculum Group members (building principal or designee, teacher from each department, and students), and Building Representative Committee members (teachers). Enhancement lists were subsequently reviewed by central administration, the Board, and the project architects. Schools were then given the projected prices for their requested items and were asked to review, reprioritize, or change their requests, as necessary, to stay within their dollar allotments. Allotments were based on the school’s square footage.

*A listing of each school’s Educational and Building Enhancements can be found on pages 2–4.*

**CRITICAL STRUCTURAL PROJECTS** were selected after many on-site visits to each of the district’s 18 buildings to ascertain needs. Information contained in building-condition studies and reports done in 2005, 2010, 2013, and 2015 was also used. The thorough review process was conducted by the district’s director and supervisor of facilities and operations, in conjunction with representatives from BBS Architects & Engineers (Patchogue), the firm selected by the Board to oversee the critical projects.

*A listing of the Critical Structural Projects appears on pages 5–6.*

# Educational & Building Enhancements

Schools chose their Educational and Building Enhancements after numerous meetings with the principal and select parents, students, and teachers. The superintendent and Board of Education reviewed items and schools then made final selections.

Listed below, and continued on pages 3–4, are the Bond Issue educational and building enhancements and buildings where they will be made.

## **NORTH HIGH SCHOOL . . . . . \$3,745,000**

- Renovate Library/Media Center
  - High School Library Casework
  - High School Library Technology
- Reconfigure Science Labs 110, 110A, 111
- Reconfigure Science Labs 208, 208A, 207
  - High School Science Casework
  - High School Science Technology

## **VILLAGE SCHOOL . . . . . \$758,000**

- New Greenhouse
- HVAC Upgrades
- Renovate 4 Toilet Rooms and ADA-Compliance Alterations
- Replace Exterior Doors and Hardware
- PA/Intercom Upgrade

## **NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL . . . . . \$2,860,000**

- Renovate Library/Media Center
  - Middle School Library Casework
  - Middle School Library Technology
- Renovate Room 134 to STEM/STEAM Lab
- Classroom Air-Conditioning (6 rooms)
- Replace Auditorium Seating
- Replace Curtains & Rigging
- Replace Exterior Doors & Hardware
- Install Auditorium Sound System
- New Electrical Panels
- Auditorium House Lighting to LED
- Family and Consumer Science Room Reconstruction



*Science Centers may be reconfigured such as shown in this science room in Oyster Bay.*

- Classroom Air-Conditioning (15 rooms) – 7 financed by Bond, balance funded by movie-production rental
- New Electrical Panels
- New Lower Parking Lot (97 stalls)
- Reconfigure Polo Road Corner Parking Lot (add to new 97-stall lot)

## **SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL . . . . . \$2,325,000**

- Renovate Library/Media Center
  - High School Library Casework
  - High School Library Technology
- Classroom Air-Conditioning (20 rooms)
- New Electrical Panels
- Renovate Rooms 319 & 323 to Testing Suite
- Replace Lockers in Boy’s PE & Team Locker Rooms East Gym, Renovate Showers and Coaches’ Toilet Room



*Library/Media Centers will be renovated in many schools with improvements such as those shown in this library in Riverhead.*

*(Educational & Building Enhancements continue on page 3)*

**Educational & Building Enhancements** *(continued from page 2)*

**SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL . . . . . \$2,520,150**

- Renovate Library/Media Center  
Middle School Library Casework & Technology
- Add Library Windows in Side Walls
- Replace Auditorium Seating
- Replace Exterior Doors & Hardware
- Interior Door Replacement
- Renovate 4 Student Toilet Rooms
- Renovate 5 Faculty Toilet Rooms

**J. F. KENNEDY SCHOOL . . . . . \$1,595,000**

- Renovate Library/Media Center  
Elementary School Library Casework  
Elementary School Library Technology
- Classroom Air-Conditioning (26 rooms)
- Replace Corridor Ceilings
- Replace Exterior Doors & Hardware
- New Electrical Panels
- Auditorium House Lighting to LED

**E. M. BAKER SCHOOL . . . . . \$6,902,742**

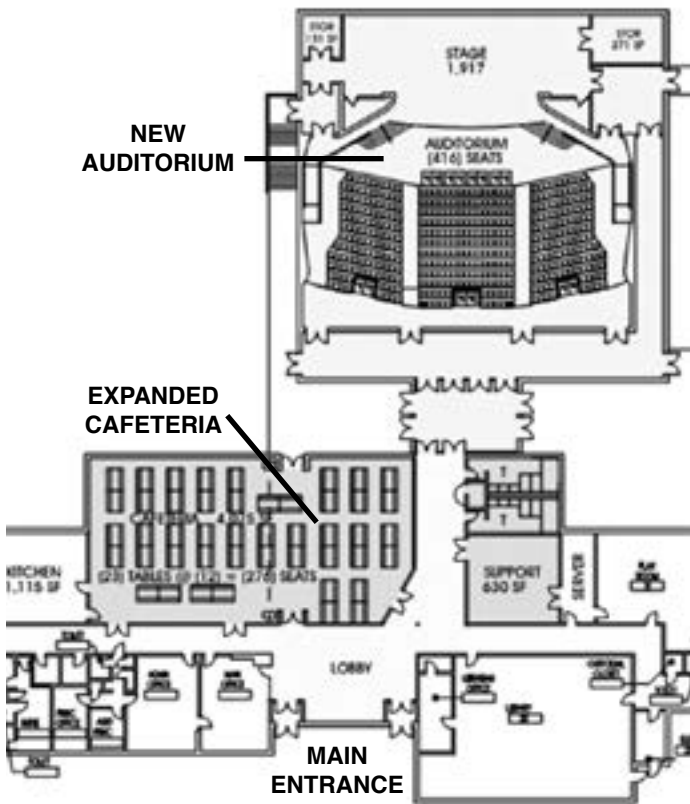
*Baker's Library was recently refurbished and is not in need of updates. The new auditorium, expanded cafeteria, and new bathrooms will more adequately accommodate the school's increasing student enrollment.*

- New Auditorium
- Cafeteria Reconstruction
- New Toilet Rooms

*Building Enhancements will give Baker School a **new Auditorium** and an **expanded Cafeteria** (utilizing space from the current auditorium).*



*An artist's rendering of E.M. Baker School's new Auditorium, a building enhancement.*



**LAKEVILLE SCHOOL . . . . . \$2,095,000**

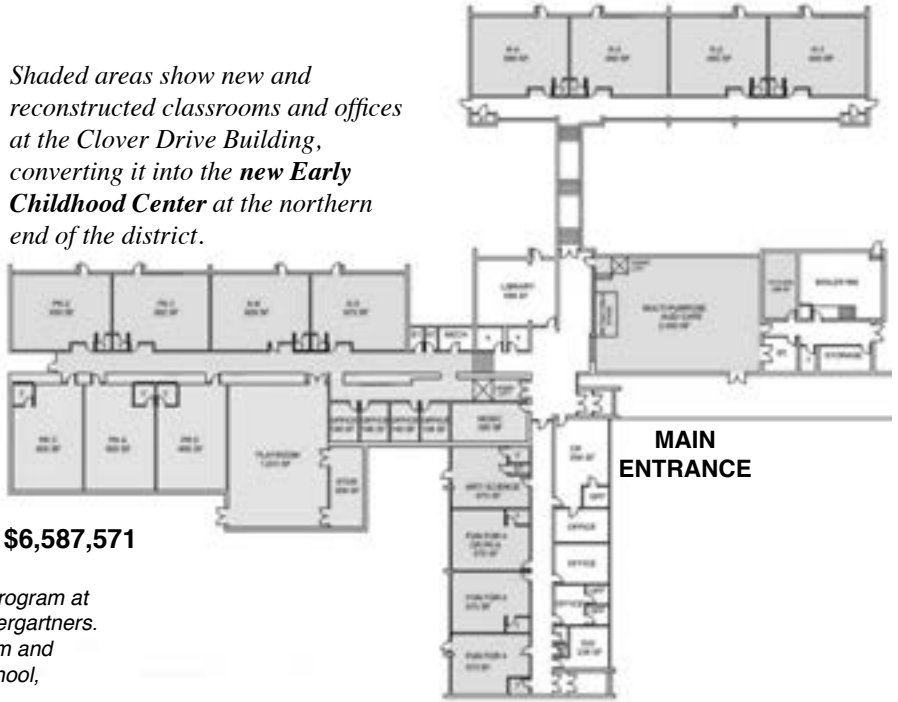
- Renovate Reading Room to Small Reading Intervention Spaces
- Classroom Air-Conditioning (40 rooms)
- Replace Exterior Staircase at Perimeter of Property
- Replace Retaining Walls, Fencing, Regrade Fields
- Replace Exterior Doors & Hardware
- New Electrical Panels
- PA/Intercom upgrade

**SADDLE ROCK SCHOOL . . . . . \$1,550,000**

- Renovate Library/Media Center  
Elementary School Library Casework  
Elementary School Library Technology
- Classroom Air-Conditioning (18 rooms)
- Remediate Coal Bin Water Infiltration
- Repave Upper Lot and Upgrade Lighting
- Replace Exterior Doors & Hardware
- New Electrical Panels

*(Educational & Building Enhancements continue on page 4)*

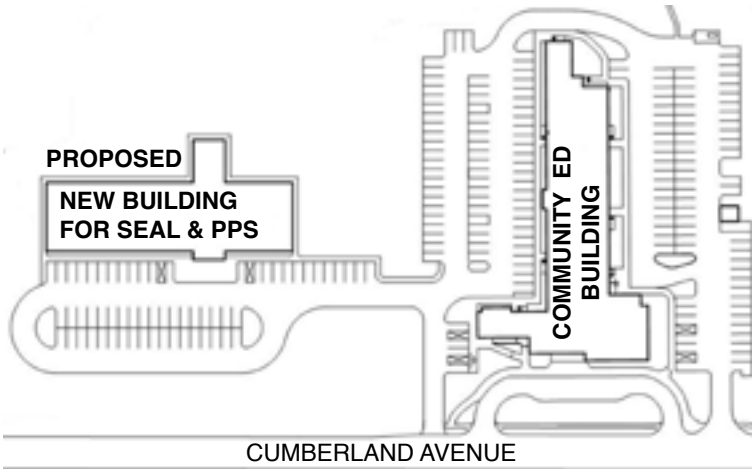
*Shaded areas show new and reconstructed classrooms and offices at the Clover Drive Building, converting it into the **new Early Childhood Center** at the northern end of the district.*



**NEW CLOVER DRIVE  
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER . . . . . \$6,587,571**

*The Clover Drive Building, after new construction and reconstruction, will be home to a new Prekindergarten Program at the northern end of the district and to Baker School kindergartners. These programs will be comparable to the Pre-K program and Lakeville School kindergartners currently at Parkville School, at the southern end of the district.*

- Additions and interior alterations to existing building



**NEW CUMBERLAND CENTER . . . . . \$9,804,492**

*The newly constructed Cumberland Center will house programs currently located in the Clover Drive Building. The new building will be located nearby to the existing Cumberland building where the Community Education program is located.*

- New building for SEAL (Supportive Environment for All Learners) program and Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) offices, which will be ADA compliant

**GRACE AVENUE (SENIOR) SOCIAL CENTER. . \$100,000**

*Grace Avenue is currently rented to CLASP (childcare center) and (Senior) Social Center programs.*

- Kitchen Upgrades

**PARKVILLE SCHOOL . . . . . \$215,000**

- Classroom Air-Conditioning (10 rooms)
- New Electrical Panels

# Critical Structural Projects

The district has previously maintained its buildings through annual budgeting, capital propositions, and capital reserves. These financial sources are no longer adequate to address critical or mandatory improvements for our buildings, which have an average age of nearly 70 years. A Bond Issue is needed, therefore, to make necessary structural improvements.

Listed below, and continued on page 6, are the Bond Issue critical structural projects and buildings where improvements will be made.

## WINDOW REPLACEMENTS

- North High School (street façade only)
- North Middle School
- South High School
- South Middle School
- Clover Drive Building
- Grace Avenue Building
- Phipps Administration Building

## ROOF REPLACEMENTS

- North Middle School
- South High School
- South Middle School
- E.M. Baker School
- J.F. Kennedy School
- Lakeville School
- Saddle Rock School
- Parkville School



Seven district buildings need exterior window replacements such as those at **South High** (below) and at the **Phipps Administration Building** (right).



*(Critical Structural Projects continue on page 6)*

## Critical Structural Projects *(continued from page 5)*



Roofs at **Baker** (above) and **South High** (below) are among eight that need replacement in our school buildings.



Fascia board will be replaced at **Parkville**.

### **ADDITIONAL ROOFING**

- North High School
- South High School (replace drains, install leaching basins)
- South Middle School (replace drains, install leaching basins)

### **EXTERIOR MASONRY REPAIRS**

- North Middle School

### **DOOR & HARDWARE REPLACEMENTS**

- Phipps Administration Building

### **MISCELLANEOUS REPLACEMENTS**

- South High School (rooftop air-conditioning, exhaust units)
- South Middle School (rooftop air-conditioning, exhaust units, gutters, downspouts)
- Lakeville School (gutters, downspouts, various ventilation non-compliances/upgrades)
- Parkville School (fascia board)

### **ADDITIONAL REPAIRS**

- Phipps Administration Building (exterior wood cornice, soffits, molding)

### **AIR-CONDITIONING**

- North High School (aerobics room)
- North Middle School (auditorium, cafeteria)
- South High School (general purpose, music practice rooms)
- South Middle School (auditorium, cafeteria)
- E.M. Baker School (new auditorium)
- J.F. Kennedy School (auditorium, multi-purpose room, electrical service upgrade)
- Lakeville School (auditorium, cafeteria)
- Saddle Rock School (auditorium)
- Parkville School (auditorium, cafeteria, electrical upgrade)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is a Bond?**

A school district bond issue is used by a public school district to typically finance building or other capital projects. The creditor-lender lends money to the district, usually over a period of time greater than five years. Ours will be over a 20-year period. The district agrees to repay the loan, in installments, over that period of time. This process is similar to taking out a home-improvement loan. New York State requires voter approval of bond issues.

## **Why do we need a Bond Issue?**

Ensuring that our students achieve personal and academic success and meeting the structural needs of our aging buildings cannot be achieved through the regular school budget, capital reserves, and capital propositions. The New York State-mandated tax cap has also limited the Board of Education and the administration from addressing many vital projects. The proposed Bond Issue will provide the necessary funds, payable over a 20-year period, to finance the educational and building enhancements and critical structural projects outlined on pages 2–6 of this newsletter.

## **What is the amount of State aid for the project?**

Theoretically, 10 percent of approved capital expenditures will generate State building aid. Some expenditures will not qualify for aid. Therefore, the amount the district will receive will be slightly less than 10 percent of expenditures.

## **How will the Bond Issue debt affect the tax cap?**

The debt-service payments on the proposed Bond Issue are excludable expenditures under the tax cap. The current Bond Issue will mature in July 2018, and the debt service on the proposed Bond Issue will begin in July 2019. However, the schedule of construction will not immediately require the entire amount of the Bond Issue. The first few years will not materially affect the tax cap or increase taxing authority. The 2019–2020 school year will see a slight increase in debt service over the maturing Bond Issue. The years 2020–2021, and beyond, will see somewhat larger increases because increasing amounts of money will be borrowed to finance the planned construction activity within the Bond.

## **What is the timetable for the completion of the enhancements and projects?**

It is estimated that construction will take about three to four years. Most of the construction will be done over summers to minimize disruption to students. We plan to start in the summer of 2018 and finish in the summer of 2022.

## **How can I get information on Bond Issue voting and absentee ballots?**

Contact the Office of the District Clerk at (516) 441-4020 (Phipps Administration Building, 345 Lakeville Rd.), school days, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.



# GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dr. Teresa Prendergast

### Editor

Jessica K.Vega

## Capital Proposition

<b>Total Cost of Projects &amp; Enhancements</b> . . . . .	<b>\$95,407,955</b>
Critical Structure Projects. . . . .	\$51,700,000
Educational & Building Enhancements . .	\$43,707,955
<b>Less Appropriation of Reserves</b> . . . . .	<b>– \$9,507,955</b>
Withdrawn from:	
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability. . . . .	\$3,000,000
Workers Compensation . . . . .	\$3,000,000
Retirement Contribution . . . . .	\$3,507,955
<b>Proposed Amount of Bond Issuance</b> . . . . .	<b>\$85,900,000</b>

## Tax Impact

### Tax Impact of a \$85,900,000 Bond on Select Fair Market Value Homes

Class I Home Market Valuation	Additional Annual Cost*	Cost Per Week
\$500,000	\$157.50	\$3.03
\$750,000	\$236.25	\$4.54
\$1,000,000	\$315.00	\$6.06

*\*The current (existing) Bond Issue costs \$124.31 annually for a Class I Real Property Taxpayer with a home valued at \$750,000. The proposed Bond Issue will, when fully issued, add \$236.25 to that cost.*

**BOND ISSUE VOTE • Tuesday, February 14, 2017 • 7 a.m.–10 p.m.**

**Baker School** (for registered voters living north of the LIRR)  
**South High School** (for registered voters living south of the LIRR)