



Pine Valley CSD

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. When and where is the capital project vote?

A. The capital project vote will be held on **Tuesday, November 12, from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm at the Jr/Sr High School New Gym Foyer.** You are entitled to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and have been a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No pre-registration is required.

Q. Why is the District having a capital project vote?

A. Our District is committed to providing a safe learning environment and well-maintained facilities for students and public use. Routine facility maintenance and repair work is typically funded within the annual District budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. However, large renovations, reconstruction, and replacement of “end of useful life” items, such as those included in this project, would have a major impact on the tax rate if included in the annual District budget. A capital project is a fiscally responsible approach because the State reimburses a vast majority of the construction costs that would otherwise be funded by the local taxpayers.

Q. What has changed since the last project vote was held?

A. A great deal has changed. In December 2018, a capital project was defeated by the community. Since that time, the District has solicited feedback from voters and community representatives to gather the public’s opinions on the scope of the project. That input was very seriously considered causing the District to re-evaluate needs vs. wants, along with the best interests of our students and community.

In addition to removing some items from the last project, we have incorporated HVAC improvements and other energy efficiency items according to our Long Range Plan. This will allow the District to recognize these long-term energy efficiency savings without a tax impact to district residents. ***This new project’s scope prioritizes instructional needs, safety & security, and facilities maintenance to ensure long-term sustainability of our academic and athletic programs.***

Q. How were the project’s components chosen?

A. Every five years, all school districts are required by the State to have a certified architect review the condition of their buildings and grounds. In 2015, our architectural consultant performed a Building Condition Survey (BCS) that examined the District’s facilities and identified problem areas requiring reconstruction or replacement. ***After studying and prioritizing these BCS items, the District’s Buildings & Grounds Committee developed the Long Range Plan to address this work in phases, thereby minimizing the impact on taxpayers. This proposed project includes only the high-priority items from the previously proposed project, plus the needs that had been planned for the Long Range Plan’s next phase of work.***

Q. Why is this work needed?

A. Because Pine Valley CSD is here to stay! Just as one's home ages and needs upkeep and repairs to keep it in good shape, so too do our schools. We need to take care of the most important asset the community owns. In addition to improved educational programs and spaces for our students, much of this project's scope includes cost-saving energy upgrades, plus critical facilities improvements to address state-mandated health and safety requirements. The District is addressing these issues now rather than delaying and facing future higher costs and further deterioration.

Q. What are the instructional improvements included in this project?

A. In addition to infrastructure enhancements to improve district-wide safety and security for our students, this project will include a centralized Early Intervention Learning Center for K-6 students, upgraded STEM/STEAM program spaces for our Jr./Sr. High School agriculture and engineering programs, and improvements to our Physical Education program spaces.

Q. When will the work take place?

A. After final design submission, it's expected that the State Education Department's approval for the project would be received in late 2020 with the bulk of work starting in summer 2021. It is anticipated that the project would be completed in fall 2022.

Q. What is the total cost of this proposed project, and how can it have NO TAX IMPACT?

A. The total cost of the project is \$9,887,212. The project will be paid for by a combination of State Aid funding that will cover 91% of the cost, and the District's capital reserves which will cover the remainder.

Q. Isn't State Aid just my tax dollars too?

A. Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature has given all Districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars to enhance their facilities through capital improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to invest those tax dollars in our own community, working to improve the educational setting for our children, families, district staff, and the public community long into the future.

Q. What if the capital project vote does not pass?

A. The required safety improvements and building renovations identified by the State-mandated Building Condition Survey would still be absolutely necessary. If the vote does not pass, these requirements would still need to be addressed, but without the benefit of the State's aid. The required work would instead have to be funded within the annual District budget with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. In addition, the instructional improvements that are proposed in this capital project could not be done at all, as the cost to implement them would be far more than the District and taxpayers alone could reasonably afford without State aid.

Q. Where can I find out more about the capital project proposal?

A. There is a Public Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, October 15, at 7:00 pm in the Board Room (Room #11), located at the Elementary School building**. There will be a capital project presentation and an open forum for questions and answers. Additional information is available on the district website at **www.pval.org** and outside our main offices. A capital project brochure will be mailed to all district residents in early October.