

# ELLICOTTVILLE

## >>> Capital Improvements Project, 2019 <<<

On December 10, 2019, Ellicottville Central School District residents will have an opportunity to vote on a capital project that is being proposed to implement various health, safety, accessibility, and code compliance measures at our buildings and facilities.

Just as one's home ages and needs upkeep and repairs to keep it in good shape, so too do our schools. Our district is committed to providing a safe learning environment and well-maintained facilities for students and public use. This project consists of prioritized improvements and upgrades that were identified during the recent facilities assessment that is required by the State Education Department every five years. We encourage you to learn more details about the project on our website and at the Public Information Meeting on Thursday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria.

### Project Scope Highlights

The proposed project will consist of prioritized renovation and reconstruction work designed to implement critical improvements and upgrades needed at the main building and at the bus garage. Key items in the proposed project include:

#### K-12 Main Building

##### ► Health & Safety Improvements

- Fire alarm system improvements
- Public address system replacement
- Door hardware and exterior stair upgrades at main entrance
- Emergency generator replacement



##### ► Asset Preservation & Building Integrity

- Partial roof replacement to include roof over High School Wing
- Masonry restoration
- High school kitchen & cafeteria renovations
- Terrazzo stair replacement at the main entrance
- Replacement of elementary gym floor

##### ► Site Improvements

- Replace/rebuild rear (High School) and Elementary parking lots
- Replacement of asphalt top coat at bus loop
- Supplemental parking lot lighting coverage
- Storm drainage improvements
- Installation of a New York State required auxiliary water well

#### Bus Garage

##### ► Asset Preservation & Building Integrity

- Roof replacement
- Interior renovations/reconfiguration
- Emergency generator
- Parking lot improvements (paving & gate)



Window / Roof Leak



Library Roof Leak



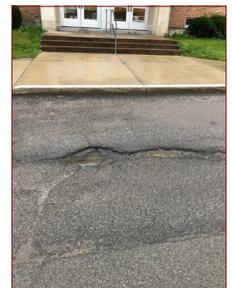
Water Damage



Elementary Parking Lot



Parking Lot Drain



Drop-off / Bus Loop



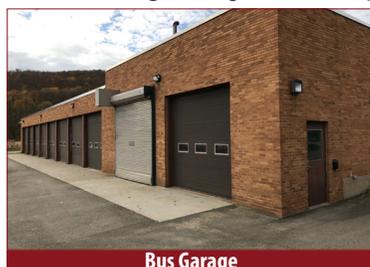
High School Kitchen



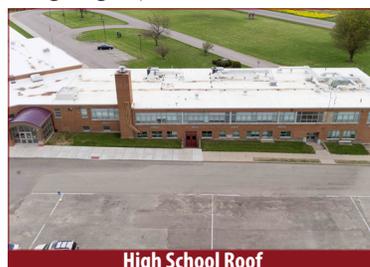
Freezer Condenser



Elementary Gym Floor



Bus Garage



High School Roof



Exterior Masonry



Exterior Masonry



High School Entry Steps

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Why is the District having a capital project vote?

The Ellicottville Central School 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 the fiscally responsible alternative because the State reimburses a vast majority of the cost, and the expense is spread out over a longer period of time.

### Why is this work needed?

Just as one’s home ages and needs upkeep and repairs to keep it in good shape, so too, do our schools. 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 repair or replacement. A District subcommittee studied the BCS items and developed a prioritized list of recommended repairs and upgrades. The District is addressing those issues now, rather than delaying and facing future higher costs and further deterioration.

### How were the project’s components chosen?

Items from the Building Condition Survey, academic program enhancements, safety, and security concerns received top priority, as did code compliance, mechanical systems, and building envelope (roofs and exterior wall systems) items.

### When will the work take place?

It’s expected that the State Education Department’s approval for the project would be received by late 2020 with the bulk of work starting in Summer 2021. It is anticipated that the project would be completed in Fall 2022.

### What is the total cost of this proposed project and how will it affect my taxes?

The total cost of the project is \$8,400,000. Much of the project’s cost will be funded by State Building Aid. The remaining local share will be financed through retiring debt service and the local tax levy. On average, district homeowners can expect an estimated annual tax increase of about \$17.76 per \$100,000 full/equalized home value.

### Isn’t State Aid just my tax dollars too?

Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature has given all Districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars to enhance their communities through school building improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to keep some of those tax dollars in our own community, working to improve the educational setting for our children and the public.

### What if the referendum does not pass?

The critical safety improvements and building renovations that were identified by the State-mandated Building Condition Survey would still be necessary. If the referendum does not pass, critical needs would still need to be addressed, but without the benefit of the State’s aid. The required work may instead have to be funded within the annual District budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost.

### Where can I learn more about the project?

On December 5, there will be a Public Information Meeting in the High School cafeteria with an open forum for questions and answers. More sources are listed below.

## Important Dates



### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, December 5  
7:00 p.m. | High School Cafeteria

### PUBLIC VOTE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019



1:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.  
Elementary School Foyer

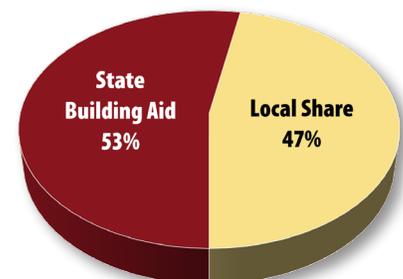
*Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person.*

## Project Financing

The proposed *Capital Improvements Project, 2019* will be paid for using available State Building Aid funding, with the remainder to be paid for through the local tax levy. Retiring debt service from payments on past capital improvements will offset some of the local share, helping to minimize the tax impact.

On average, district homeowners can expect an estimated annual tax increase of about \$17.76 per \$100,000 full/equalized home value.

### Source of Funds



**Total Project Cost: \$8,400,000**

## Additional Information Sources



A *Capital Improvements Project, 2019* public information meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria**



Information about the proposed project will be on display in the school lobby



Project details have been included in recent issues of the District newsletter, which is sent monthly to all district households



Visit [www.ellicottvillecentral.com](http://www.ellicottvillecentral.com) for project information and updates