

★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★

MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Mahopac Proposes \$54 Million Tax Neutral Capital Project

The Project will be tax neutral because borrowing for this bond will begin when existing debt payment is expiring

"In keeping with the 'Mahopac Way,' the Mahopac Board of Education adopted in February a strategic direction that will continue to support the high-quality instructional and extracurricular activities that make our schools and community an outstanding place to live and raise a family," said Superintendent Anthony DiCarlo.

In the fall of 2018, the Board of Education directed the Buildings & Grounds Committee, a group of school leaders, parents and community members, to create a plan that addresses the most pressing facilities needs in our district. Over several months, this diverse group of Mahopac community members created this capital improvement project plan based on:

- A community survey.
- Mahopac's Building Condition Survey (a five-year facilities review for the New York State Education Department) and many discussions with teachers, staff, parents, students and community members.

The District opts to fund capital projects such as this through a bond because costs are spread over a long period of time. The total cost of the proposed capital project addressing all these facilities needs is expected to be \$53,960,096. The good news is that approximately 90% of the proposed projects will be eligible for state aid at 58.1%. And, because the borrowing for this project will begin when existing debt payment is expiring, taxpayers should not see a change in their tax bills from this capital project.

The voting takes place on Tuesday, May 21 from 6 am to 9 pm at Mahopac High School at the same time as the annual school budget vote.

Upon voter approval of the capital improvement project plan, work will be conducted in each of the District's six schools and the bus garage. This work will address:

- STEAM & science facilities
- Conversion of libraries into modern multimedia centers
- Music & performance areas
- Athletic fields & facilities
- Infrastructure & energy efficiency
- Security improvements

The district has planned a number of information sessions, open to all, so residents may see the instructional and facility challenges our buildings face. See page 4 for a listing or go to www.mahopac.k12.ny.us/bond for more information.

Referendum at a Glance

Proposed Project Total \$53,960,095

Projected Portion Covered by State Aid approximately 90% Aid from New York State \$28,000,000

Property Tax Impact: Tax neutral due to existing debt retiring

Dear Mahopac Community:

It is an honor to serve as leaders and champions for public education in the Mahopac community. Our utmost responsibility is to work with you—families, district staff, school leaders, community leaders, local businesses, and residents—to ensure our children have access to the best possible education.

Among our obligations as a Board is the oversight of district facilities. Sharing the community's vision, we believe secure and well-maintained buildings and grounds, along with quality infrastructure, are a priority. This capital project proposal was developed with much thought and deliberation. In the fall of 2018, the Board of Education directed a group of school leaders, parents and community members to create a plan that addresses the most pressing facilities needs in our district. This diverse group created this capital project plan based on a community survey, Mahopac's Building Condition Survey (a five-year facilities review for the New York State Education Department) and many discussions with teachers, staff, parents, students and community members.

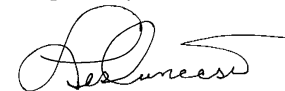
Work will be conducted in each of our six schools and the bus garage, and will address STEAM and science facilities, music and performance areas, athletic fields and facilities, the conversion of libraries into modern multimedia centers, infrastructure and energy efficiencies, and security improvements.

In this newsletter, you will find information about the details of the tax-neutral capital improvement project. We believe that stronger schools equal stronger communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this plan.

Please come out to vote on May 21.

Respectfully,



Leslie Mancuso
Board of Education President



VOTE

VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019, AT MAHOPAC HIGH SCHOOL NEW GYM 6 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

VOTE

GOAL

The capital improvement project bond supports an educational facility plan that serves as a clear reflection of our community's commitment to high-quality schools, including security and safety initiatives and infrastructure needs. This proposition will augment our students' educational experiences and fulfill the Mahopac Central School District's commitment to put children first.

What is included in this Building Project?

Full details are available in the complete plan on the district website, www.mahopac.k12.ny.us/bond.

Mahopac High School

Program

- Science lab upgrades
- Music Room upgrades
- STEAM lab
- Library/Media Center
- Synthetic turf practice field
- Locker Room upgrades
- Stadium lighting
- Cafeteria serving area

Safety and Security

- Security vestibule
- Egress and fire alarm
- PA system

Infrastructure

- Roofing
- HVAC
- Clocks
- Electrical panels

Mahopac Middle School

Program

- Library/Media Center
- STEAM lab
- Convert Planetarium to multi-use mini theater

Safety and Security

- Main entrance traffic
- Egress and fire alarm
- PA system

Infrastructure

- Roofing
- HVAC
- Clocks
- Electrical panels

Austin Road Elementary

Program

- Library/Media Center
- Playground improvements

Safety and Security

- Security vestibule
- Fire alarm
- PA system

Infrastructure

- Clocks
- Electrical panels



Lakeview Elementary

Program

- Renovation to nurse's office for ADA compliance
- Renovation to Related Services instructional space
- Library/Media Center
- Playground improvements

Safety and Security

- Security vestibule
- Fire alarm
- PA system

Infrastructure

- HVAC (including cafeteria A/C)
- Clocks
- Electrical panels

Mahopac Falls Academy

Safety & Security

- Security Vestibule
- Fire Alarm
- PA System

Infrastructure

- Roofing
- Boiler Room Piping
- Electrical panels

Bus Garage

Safety & Security

- Vehicle exhaust extraction system

Infrastructure

- HVAC upgrades

HS/MS/FALLS Academy Campus

Infrastructure

- Installation of a central water system

Projected Timeline

Design phase	NYS Review	Bidding process	Construction begins
Jun. —————> Dec.	Jan. —————> Aug.	Sept. —————> Dec.	Spring
2019	2020		2021



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FAQ

This capital projects proposal was developed with much thought and deliberation. In the fall of 2018, the Board of Education directed the Buildings & Grounds Committee, a group of school leaders, parents, and community members who have expertise in finance, construction, education and security, to create a plan that addresses the most pressing facilities needs in our district. This diverse group is also supported by the architectural firm Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers and the construction manager from The Palombo Group.

1. Why is the board proposing investment in our schools now?

The increased awareness about student safety in schools has prompted districts all over the country to review their campus security. This project will enable the district to address some issues in this regard. In addition, the infrastructure in some of our buildings is nearing the end of its useful life. Maintaining our buildings protects our taxpayers' investment and helps make Mahopac a desirable place to live and raise families. It is also important to update some of our learning spaces, such as libraries, to better prepare our students to compete in today's global economy.

2. Why schedule a bond referendum now?

The District has significant debt service being retired beginning in 2019. This creates an opportunity for the District to address major teaching, safety, security and infrastructure needs—as well as the educational and spatial needs at Mahopac Schools—with a new bond referendum that would be tax neutral. Approval of the project will result in projected new annual debt service being at or less than the current annual debt service being retired by the District.

3. Will New York State provide any financial support for this project?

The District is projecting that approximately 90% of all work proposed in the project scope will be eligible for New York State aid, which, at 58.1% percent, means that about \$28,000,000 of the cost is absorbed by the state.

6. How can the district say there will be no tax impact?



By strategically timing the payments on this capital project, the Board of Education is **avoiding a school tax impact**. Old debt from previous capital projects, now completed, is retiring between 2019 and 2022. The new debt from this capital project is expected to begin in 2023 so the net effect will be tax neutral.

4. Can't the district just pay for the work on this project through its regular budget?

It would benefit the taxpayers to do this work through a capital project, rather than the annual budget process, to save taxpayers money in the long run. If the District does the work through a capital project, much of the scope is state aidable. However, if the work was paid for from the regular budget, the District would not receive aid. Additionally, New York State limits the increase in the tax

levy from one year's budget to the next. Under that formula, it would be impossible to do even a portion of the work without either exceeding the tax cap (requiring 60% approval of the voters in the district) or slashing educational programs and services.

And importantly, it is fairer to bond for capital projects like this as the costs are absorbed by residents living in the community over a

longer period of time. Payments for this project will be extended over 15 years.

5. I hear that some of the work will be maintenance-type work. Hasn't the district been maintaining the buildings all along?

The district does ongoing, routine maintenance work every year. The proposed work is not "routine maintenance" but, instead, is a collection of medium- to large-scale projects that fall outside the definition of routine maintenance. Replacing big-ticket items that are approaching the end of their useful lives through the bond will avoid costly, emergency action in the future.

MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

179 East Lake Boulevard, Mahopac, NY 10541-1666

Board of Education

Leslie Mancuso, *President*
Michael Mongon, *Vice President*
Michael Cazzari
David Furfaro
Lawrence Keane
Lucy Massafra
Mark O'Connor
Michael Simone

Superintendent of Schools

Anthony DiCarlo

District Clerk

Melody LaRocca

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #122
Brewster, NY
10509

CURRENT RESIDENT

www.mahopac.k12.ny.us/bond

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Voter Information

Voting on this proposition will take place at the same time as the voting on the 2019–20 Mahopac School Budget and Board of Education candidates.

May 21, 2019, 6 am to 9 pm, at the Mahopac High School Gymnasium

Mahopac Central School District residents must be registered by the district and/or Putnam County in order to vote in school matters. After you have registered, you must vote at least once within a four-year period in order to retain your registration.

Voter Eligibility:

- Must be a United States citizen.
- Must be a resident of the Mahopac Central School District for at least 30 days preceding the vote.
- Must be at least 18 years old as of May 21, 2019.
- Must be registered with the Putnam County Board of Elections to vote in general elections OR be registered with the School District's Board of Registration or have voted in a school election within the past four years.

Voter Registration:

If you are registered with the Putnam County Board of Elections you do not need to register.

Qualified residents may register at the District Office with the District Clerk during business hours from 9 am to 3 pm, on any school business day up to May 14, 2019. There will be an extended night registration on May 14, 2019 until 7 pm in the District Office located at 179 East Lake Blvd.

Absentee Ballots:

Applications for absentee ballots are available on the District's website and at the District Office. All completed ballots are due in the office of the District Clerk by 5 pm on May 21, 2019. For more information, contact Melody LaRocca, District Clerk, LaroccaM@mahopac.k12.ny.us or 845-628-3415 x10550.

Proposition

That the Board of Education of the Mahopac Central School District, in the County of Putnam, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct improvements and alterations to various District buildings and sites and to expend \$53,960,100 therefor; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$53,960,100 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$53,960,100 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

Public Information Sessions

Join us for a conversation about the **District's Capital Improvement Project.**

April 23, 7 pm: Lakeview Elementary PTO Meeting

April 24, 7 pm: SEPTO Meeting at Mahopac Falls

April 29, 7 pm: Middle School PTO Meeting at Mahopac Middle School

May 6, 7 pm: MSA Meeting at Mahopac Falls



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