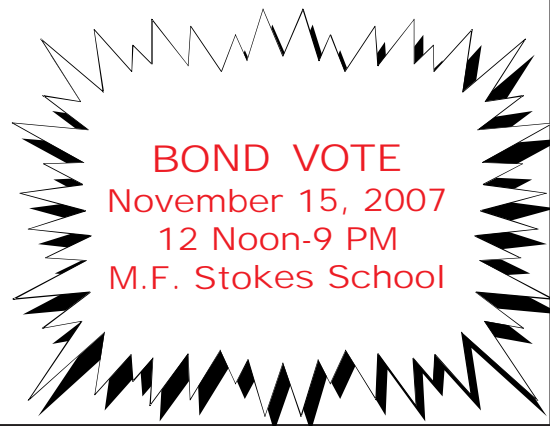


Island Trees School District

Excellence and Success for All Students



BOND VOTE
November 15, 2007
12 Noon-9 PM
M.F. Stokes School

Volume 17, No. 2

Bond Referendum Issue

October 2007

ISLAND TREES BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENTS CAPITAL PLAN

Bond Referendum Planned for November 15, 2007

EXCEL Aid and Building Aid will result in 66% of the total costs to be reimbursed by New York State!

The Island Trees Board of Education has worked with district administration and the district's architectural firm, H2M Group, to formulate a Capital Plan to ensure that the district's buildings and grounds are properly maintained, that our children and staff continue to function in safe and secure environments and that we continue to provide the tools necessary to improve student achievement. *The \$7.3 million Capital Plan accomplishes this in a responsible, cost effective manner.*

The Board will utilize EXCEL funding from New York State for a portion of the proposed district-wide projects. EXCEL (Expanding our Children's Education and Learning) aid has been made available to all school districts under Chapter 61 of the Laws of 2006. Island Trees has been allocated \$894,724 (Voter approval is required to receive this funding. In other words, we either use it or forfeit it!) *This amount, combined with building aid per current law, on all the proposed projects, including interest costs, would net approximately \$6.8 million in funding from New York State, which equates to approximately 66% of the total costs that would be reimbursed to the district from the state over the life of the bond!*

We present a plan to you that will have a minimal impact on school taxes. On average, the cost to the homeowner would be approximately \$34 per year. These projects are presented to you with a plan that reflects the **LEAST EXPENSIVE** way to fund them. It is in the best interest of our district residents to garner as much funding from the state as we can to improve our infrastructure, student achievement and the safety and security of our schools. This plan accomplishes these goals.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS regarding this proposal are scheduled for:

**Wednesday, October 24 &
Thursday, November 8, 2007
8:00 PM
Geneva N. Gallow School Cafeteria**

BOND PROJECTS

SAFETY & SECURITY

To safeguard our students and staff, the District has already installed four (4) surveillance cameras at each school. Our goal is to expand this system by adding forty-eight (48) additional cameras throughout the District. With this new digital system, we will also be able to securely view our schools, observe corridors and other areas of high student activity, and monitor the perimeters from an offsite location after hours. The expansion of these additional cameras underscores the District's commitment to provide a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.

Estimated Cost: \$330,000

TECHNOLOGY

Interactive whiteboards have become an integral part of the modern classroom. They serve as an extension of the computer, allowing the teacher to actively engage students utilizing a large screen display. Teachers can access files, run applications, connect to the Internet and highlight key points directly on the screen. This technology facilitates the improvement of instruction and improved student achievement. This proposal includes the installation of sixty-four (64) interactive whiteboards in classrooms across the District.

Estimated Cost: \$345,600

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

While the fire alarm systems in each of our schools are operable, they are 50 years old and in need of replacement. The proposed system will utilize new, addressable, digital technology. The Memorial Middle School, High School, J. Fred Sparke and Michael F. Stokes Elementary Schools will have new systems installed which will include horn strobes, pull stations and enunciators. These systems will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act which is mandated by the State Education Department

Estimated Cost: \$930,000

CLASSROOM HEATING SYSTEMS

The heating systems in our classrooms are original and no longer function properly. We are required to replace these systems to increase fuel efficiency, temperature control and to meet fresh air requirements. The heating units will be replaced and direct digital temperature control systems, which will further reduce energy consumption, will be installed at Stokes and Sparke. The heating system steam traps and flow valves will be replaced at the Memorial Middle School and the High School.

Estimated Cost: \$1,488,000

ELECTRICAL UPGRADES

Advances in technology have had a profound impact on the way traditional classrooms are used in today's learning environment. The use of computers, interactive "smart" boards, laptops and overhead projectors have added to the electrical demands on all of the District's facilities. As a result, we propose to upgrade the electrical services at Stokes and Sparke Elementary Schools. The existing service size, main distribution panels, underground feeders and the circuit transformer cabinets at these two locations are extremely outdated and overloaded, and current electrical demands exceed their associated capabilities and are in need of replacement.

Estimated Cost: \$600,000



50 Year Old Fire Alarm Panel to be replaced



Interactive White Board



Memorial Middle School Entry will become accessible under American with Disabilities Act

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES COMPLIANCE

Recent mandates by the State Education Department require districts to address issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as part of future projects. Therefore, as part of the work we propose to upgrade the accessibility to our buildings by installing automatic access doors at the main entrances at our elementary schools, Memorial Middle School and High School. An ADA compliant vestibule at Sparke Elementary School, and a ramp at the Memorial Middle School will be created. We will also upgrade the elevator and replace the bleachers at the high school, which will then be able to accommodate wheelchairs. As a result of this work, we will provide students, parents and residents with physical disabilities the same opportunity and access to all areas of our buildings.

Estimated Cost: \$582,000

PLAYGROUNDS, PARKING & GENERAL BUILDING REFURBISHMENTS

Included in the proposed work are refurbishments to the general infrastructure of our facilities. These items have all been identified within the District's five-year capital improvement plan as being in need of replacement. The work includes the removal of the remaining VAT (vinyl asbestos tile) flooring in several buildings as well as the replacement of damaged concrete window sills and slate pavers at Stokes School. In addition, the existing playground at Stokes will be replaced since treated lumber is no longer allowed by the State Education Dept. The rubber surfacing beneath the playground at Sparke will be replaced and additional playground equipment will be installed between the two buildings. As stated above, the high school bleachers are original and need replacement.

Parking for teachers, staff and visitors throughout the District has become an issue, the lack of which has prompted us to include the construction of additional parking stalls and repairs to the existing concrete curbs around several bus loops.

Finally, we propose to construct a new 3,200 square foot prefabricated maintenance shed to replace the current over-cramped and severely deteriorated structure. The new facility will provide the District with the ability to house a majority of the maintenance vehicles, tractors, lawn and snow removal equipment all in one location. In addition, the new maintenance building will have external toilet facilities which can be used by students, parents and the community during events held on the adjacent fields.

Estimated Cost: \$1,512,000

ATHLETIC FIELD & LIGHTING (Proposition #2)

An ongoing issue affecting many school districts across Long island, as well as New York State, has been the ability to keep up with the demands of the athletic programs and their effects on the facilities they use. The main field at the High School is currently used for football, girls and boys lacrosse, soccer, physical education classes and band. As a result, the introduction of modern synthetic field surfaces have become common practice, which allow districts to utilize their playing fields on an almost continuous basis with very little to no down time. As part of this project, we propose to change the existing natural sod field and defensive zone surface to a synthetic turf along with field lighting for use during night activities. The advantages to the District are many. The turf is made from recycled materials which reinforce the use of environmentally friendly and green products. The synthetic fields also reduce maintenance and operational costs by eliminating watering, mowing, fertilizing and re-seeding.

Estimated Cost: \$1,524,000



Playgrounds will be replaced/refurbished at Stokes and Sparke



New Synthetic Turf Field & Lighting



Old Maintenance Shed will be replaced

PURPOSE OF THE BOND PROPOSAL

- * Ensure Safety & Security of Students & Staff
- * Improve Classroom Instruction & Student Achievement
- * Preserve & Refurbish Building Infrastructure & Grounds
- * Improve ADA Accessibility & Fire Code Compliance
- * Comply with Mandated Five-Year Facilities Plan

November 1, 2007

Registration for Bond Vote
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
District Clerk's Office

ALSO: Open registration on all school days - 9 AM to 3 PM in the Office of the District Clerk *up to and including Saturday, November 10, 2007.*

November 15, 2007

District Bond Vote
12 Noon - 9:00 PM
M.F. Stokes School

BOND PROPOSITIONS

1. EXCEL Aid & Additional Capital Improvement Projects
2. New Synthetic Field Turf & Lighting

Note: The passage of Proposition #2 is contingent on passage of Proposition #1

The \$7,311,600 plus bond interest expense (\$2,987,366) will yield \$6,842,176 in aid from New York State based on current law!

Note: 66% of the costs to be reimbursed by New York State!

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