

**Board of Education
Regular Meeting**

Minutes

March 6, 2024

**ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELMIRA HEIGHTS, NEW YORK**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 6, 2024, by President Joseph Sullivan followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Members Present: Jody Buckley, Christopher Callas, John Cole, Terrance Day, Michael Lepak, Joseph Sullivan, Mikki Yesesky

Others Present: Michael Gill, Martha Clark, Andy Billotte (Welliver), Jeff Robbins (HUNT), Travis Payne (HUNT), Krissy McNamara, Tom Boyanowski, Megan Molina

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Agenda -

A motion was made by Jody Buckley, seconded by Terrance Day, and carried 7-0 to approve the agenda for the March 6, 2024 Board of Education Regular meeting.

Minutes –

A motion was made by John Cole, seconded Michael Lepak and carried 7-0 to approve the minutes of the following Board of Education

Meetings: February 7, 2024 Board of Education Regular Meeting
February 28, 2024 Board of Education Special Meeting

Order of Business:

A motion was made by Christopher Callas, seconded by Michael Lepak and carried 7-0 to suspend the regular order of business to accommodate guests, special discussion topics and presentations in an order of business as deemed appropriate.

1st EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:05pm a motion was made by John Cole, seconded by Terrance Day, and carried 7-0 to enter executive session for discussions on an individual personnel matter.

ADJOURN 1st EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:23pm a motion was made by Mikki Yesesky, seconded by Christopher Callas, and carried 7-0 to adjourn executive session.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

Michael Gill - Superintendent ♦ Reviewed some “housekeeping” public comment guidelines for speakers and read through the Human Rights law and DASA regulations, also mentioned a letter from Mr. C.

Krissy McNamara – Elementary Principal ♦ Professional Learning teams have been successful ♦ Lots of fun activities at Cohen Elementary including March Madness, Mini-plays, grade 4/5 Art club with Ms. Baroody, Book Fair coming up on the 13th – those proceeds go to buying K-5 birthday books. ♦ GSTBOCES Cosmetology is giving free hair cuts at Cohen.

Martha Clark – Business Manager ♦ saving comments for budget presentation.

Public Comments - Five (5) Members of the Heights and outside local communities spoke to the board about their concerns with bullying on social media, hate in the community, teacher shortages, lack of communication from the district, and some spoke highly of Mr. C and shared stories of him.

At this time the Board President moved to Discussion item:

N-1 Proposed Capital Project 2024 Presentation – HUNT Engineers

Presented by Jeff Robbins and Travis Payne of HUNT Engineers/Architects with power point presentation (attached). They reviewed presentation and gave a history of transportation and child safety study with questions and answers. Andy Billotte of Welliver joined.

PERSONNEL - approved

A motion was made by Michael Lepak, seconded by Terrance Day and carried 7-0 to approve the following recommended personnel items F-1a through F-3d, to include addition F2b, and being further resolved that upon receipt of final clearance from the State Education Department, any conditional appointments shall be changed to regular appointments, reflecting the effective date of said Board meeting.

F-1 Creation/Elimination of Positions

The Board created the following positions beginning in the 2023-24 school year:

- a. Create (1) one Food Service Helper 3.75hr/day effective March 7, 2024

F-2 Resignation/Termination/Retirements

Retirement

- a. The Board accepted, for the purpose of retirement, the resignation of Mr. Joseph Condamé as Physical Education teacher, with best wishes and appreciation of 37½ years of service to the Elmira Heights CSD. Mr. C's last day with the district was February 23, 2024, and he shall receive retirement benefits that he is eligible for in the current EHTA contract.
- b. The Board accepted the resignation of Joseph Condamé as Varsity Tennis coach effective March 4, 2024.

F-3 Appointments

Recommendation to approve the following personnel. Be it further resolved that upon receipt of final clearance from the State Education Department, any conditional appointments shall be changed to regular appointments, reflecting the effective date of said Board meeting.

- a. Inspectors and Poll Workers – Capital Project Vote

The Board approved poll workers for the March 12, 2024 Capital Project Vote.

Chairman: R. Todd VanHouten Chief Inspector \$18.50/hr: Kris Manns

Volunteer Inspectors/Clerks/Alternates: Lisa Cobb, Sharon Burdick Connie Gleason Connie Warren Carol Sullivan

Peggy Ridosh Beverly Spencer Lisa Rice Meagan Rice Barb Day Tammy Farley Mary Moore Mary Rae Bahantka Maria Turic

- b. The Board approved the following substitute(s) for the 2023-2024 school year:

Substitute Teacher: Hayden Robinson Richard Edwards Brady Harrington

Substitute Support Staff: Hayden Robinson Richard Edwards

- c. The Board approved the following non-instructional probationary appointment:

Jacqueline Willsey

Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant

Effective: February 13, 2024 (*certificate issue date*)

**Probationary Period: February 13, 2024 through February 12, 2028

Certification: Teaching Assistant, Level I – Renewal, expires August 31, 2027

Compensation per EHESSA Contract: \$18.80 per hour (Step 3)

Renee Fantley

Food Service Helper

Effective: March 7, 2024

Probationary Period: March 7, 2024 - March 6, 2025 (Civil Service Regulations)

Compensation per EHESSA Contract: \$15.55 per hour (Step 1)

- d. The Board approved the following instructional probationary appointments:

Amanda Baroody

Tenure Area: Art Education

Effective: February 12, 2024 (*certificate issue date*)

**Probationary Period: four (4) years effective February 10, 2024 through February 9, 2028

Certification: Professional Visual Arts

Compensation per EHTA Contract: \$46,897.00 (Step 1 + 30 credit hours) to be prorated.

**To the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education law §§2509, 2573, 3212 and 3014, in order to be granted tenure the classroom teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education law §3012-c and/or 3012d of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years. If the classroom teacher or building principal receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time. For purposes of this subdivision, classroom teacher and building principal mean a classroom teacher or building principal as such terms are defined in Sections 30-2.2 and 30-3.2 of this part.

FINANCIAL

G-1 Reports - acknowledged

A motion was made by John Cole, seconded by Michael Lepak, and carried 7-0 to acknowledge the following consent financial reports G1a thru G1f.

- a. Budget Status Report as of February 28, 2024
- b. Revenue Status Report as of February 28, 2024
- c. Budget Transfer Report (*no report*)
- d. Treasurer's Report for:

- December 2023 (revised)
- January 2024
- e. Claims Auditor Report for January 2024
- f. Extra Classroom Report for January 2024

FACILITIES

The following updates were reviewed by Andy Billotte (Welliver) with questions and answers.

- H-1 2024 Capital Outlay Project – Security card readers and Nurses door work to start in April, needs to be complete by June 30
- H-2 Capital Project 2021 / Energy Performance Contract (EPC) Update – They had a busy February break – 3-4 ventilators installed, prepping the Middle School office move.

NEW BUSINESS

J-1 Bus Proposition

A motion was made by John Cole, seconded by Christopher Callas and carried 7-0 to approve the below resolution calling for a public vote for bus financing to purchase two buses:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. The following notice shall be added to the notice of annual meeting and election:
AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at such time:

PROPOSITION #2

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Elmira Heights Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition of two (2) 65-passenger school buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$328,451, less trade-in value, if any, and that such costs, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$328,451 shall be issued, or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to finance the purchase in that method.

2. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$328,451. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.

3. The District Clerk or the Clerk’s designee is hereby directed to add the above to the notice of the annual meeting of the School District.

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

CONSENT

A motion was made by Terrance Day, seconded by Michael Lepak and carried 7-0 to approve the following consent agenda item K-1 through K-5.

K-1 CSE Recommendations and Funding - approved

The Board approved the student placement determinations from the February 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 13, 2024, CSE/504 meeting(s) and the funds to support such recommendations.

K-2 CPSE Recommendations and Funding - approved

The Board approved the student placement determinations from February 9, and 13, 2024, CPSE meeting(s) and the funds to support such recommendations.

K-3 Donation – Corning Incorporated Community Impact & Investment – \$1,000 - accepted

The Board accepted, with thanks and appreciation, the Employee Vibrant Community Grant donation of \$1,000 to be used to support Mr. Roe’s high school art program from Corning Incorporated Community Impact & Investment.

K-4 Health and Welfare/Elmira City SD - approved

The Board approved the health and welfare services contract with the Elmira City School District, having provided services for twenty (20) Elmira Heights students, attending non-public located in the Elmira City School District, during the 2023-24 school year, at a rate of \$632.01 per student for a total cost for twenty (20) students of \$12,640.20.

K-5 Café Supply Joint Bidding - approved

The Board approved the below resolution for participation in the 2024-25 joint bidding of commodities for cafeteria supplies as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, with the Greater Southern Tier BOCES as the lead agency representing us in these matters:

SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025 including Milk, Ice Cream and Bread for following year

WHEREAS,

It is a plan of a number of public school districts associated with the Greater Southern Tier (GST) BOCES Area in New York, to bid jointly, cafeteria supplies including the following items on or about the following dates:

Meat and Grocery (NOI/FFS*) – May 22, 2024,

Commodity addendum items quarterly- September 4, 2024, November 27, 2024, February 26, 2025

Equipment – February 12, 2025

Produce – Weekly throughout the year

Paper – July 8, 2024, January 15, 2025

Ice Cream – April 30, 2025

Milk – April 30, 2025

Bread – May 28, 2025

WHEREAS,

The School District named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the GST BOCES area in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and outlined in the accompanying memo.

WHEREAS,

The School District named below wishes to appoint a committee made up of participating schools to assume responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding bids to the lowest bidder who meets the specifications, reporting the results to the schools, and where applicable providing the procurement plan for the School Food Authority; therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Board of Education of the School District listed below hereby appoints the GST BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Board of Education of the School District listed below authorizes the above committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned commodities, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Board of Education of the School District listed below agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (3) that it will award contracts according to the recommendation of the committee.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

N-1 Proposed Capital Project 2024 Presentation – HUNT Engineers

See earlier in meeting.

N-2 2024-25 Budget Development Information

Superintendent Gill and Business Manager Martha Clark reviewed a slide show presentation with preliminary goals and costs with questions and answers, noting the district is still in negotiations with support and teachers at this time.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday March 12, 2024	Capital Project Vote	7a - 8p	Comm Rm
Wednesday March 13, 2024	Regular BOE Meeting (if needed)	7:00pm	Comm Rm

2nd EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:42pm a motion was made by Michael Lepak, seconded by Jody Buckley, and carried 7-0 to enter executive session to discuss the Superintendent’s agreement and evaluation.

ADJOURN 2nd EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:29pm a motion was made by Joseph Sullivan, seconded by Terrance Day, and carried 7-0 to adjourn executive session.

ADJOURNMENT – At 9:30pm motion was made by Jody Buckley, seconded by Michael Lepak, and carried 7-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk

ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT 2024-2026

Reach New Heights!



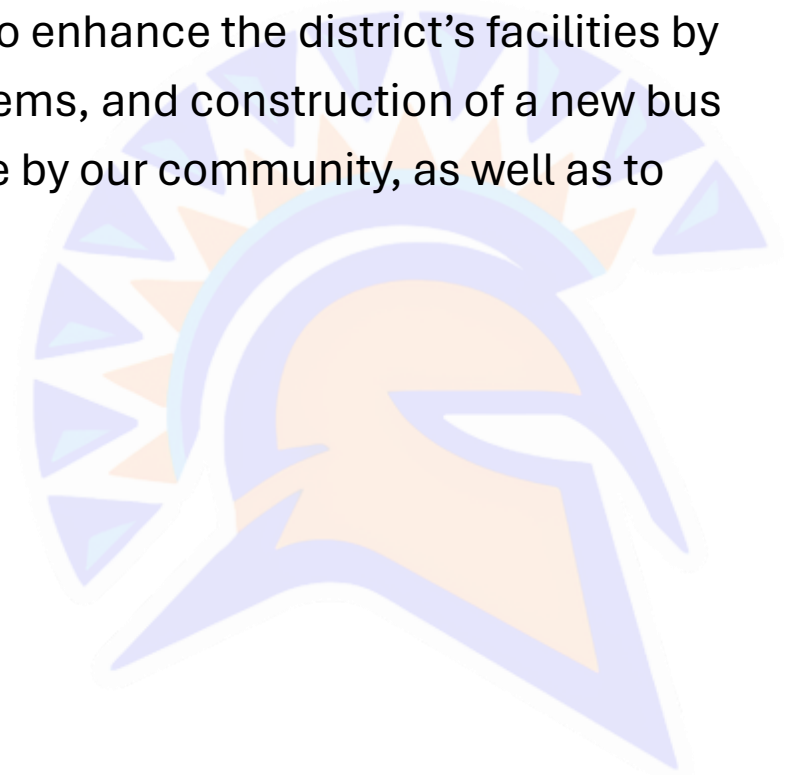
ELMIRA HEIGHTS CSD

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2024-2026

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Elmira Heights CSD 2024-2026 capital improvement project is designed to enhance the district's facilities by focusing on health and safety improvements, replacing aging infrastructure items, and construction of a new bus garage/transportation facility. The goal is to protect investments already made by our community, as well as to prepare our facilities to meet future needs.

NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT





BUS GARAGE
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BUS GARAGE FACILITY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

SITE HIGHLIGHTS

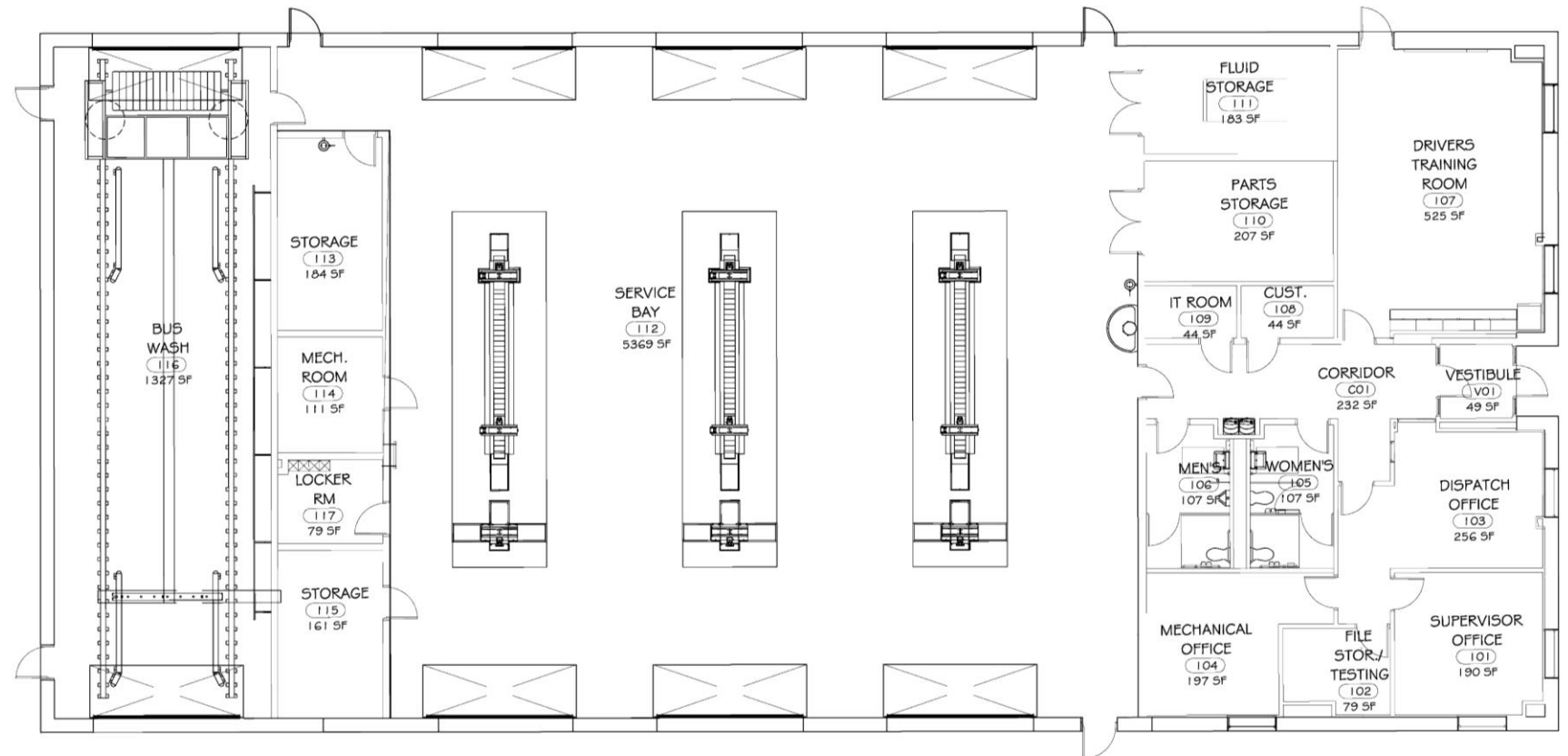
- New Bus Garage Facility Proposed Site Plan
- Long-term Cost Savings with Transportation Facility Investment
- Improved Operational Efficiency



BUS GARAGE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

- Bus Garage Facility Proposed Floor Plan
- Service Bays
- Bus Wash
- Training, Administrative, Mechanical, and Storage Spaces





ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Nathan
Cohen Middle School

DR. NATHAN COHEN ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

- Masonry Restorations
- Elementary Office Entrance Security Improvements
- Select Window Replacements
- Boiler Replacements
- Elevator Improvements/Replacement
- Elementary Gymnasium Renovations (As Budget Allows)





HIGH SCHOOL
PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



THOMAS A. EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

- Select Roof Replacements
 - Cafeteria, Music, & Boiler Room
 - Additional Roof Areas
(As Budget Allows)
- Media Center/Library Renovation
(As Budget Allows)

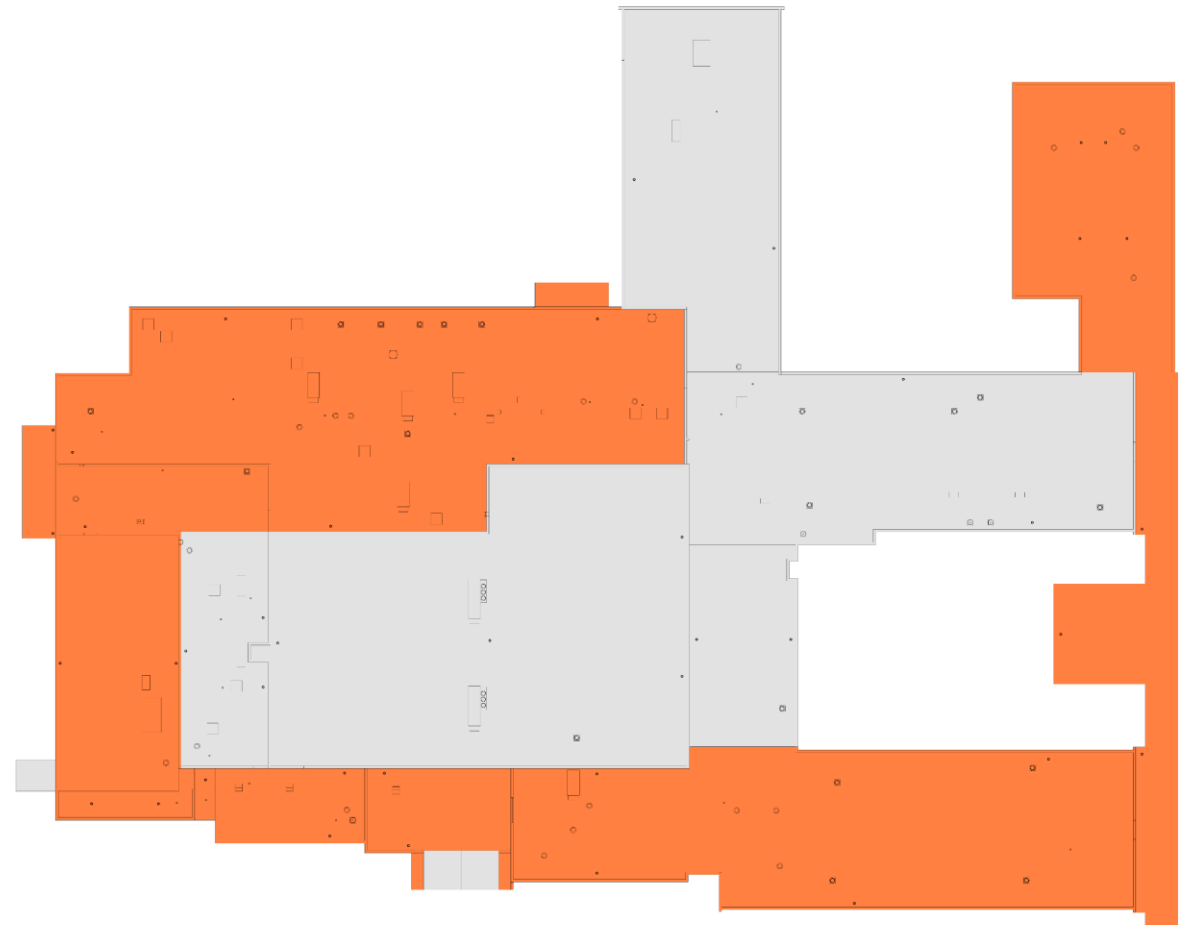


THOMAS A. EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

- Thomas A. Edison
Roof Replacement
Locations



Proposed Replacement Locations Featured in Orange

PROPOSED PROJECT TIMELINE

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2024-2026

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE:

March 12, 2024:	Referendum Vote
March 2024 – November 2024:	Architects facilitate stakeholder planning and design meetings to develop project plans
November 2024 – May 2025:	Submitted project plans will be reviewed and approved by the New York State Education Department
May 2025 – June 2025:	The project will be competitively bid on and awarded
June 2025 – December 2026:	Project Construction & Construction Close-out

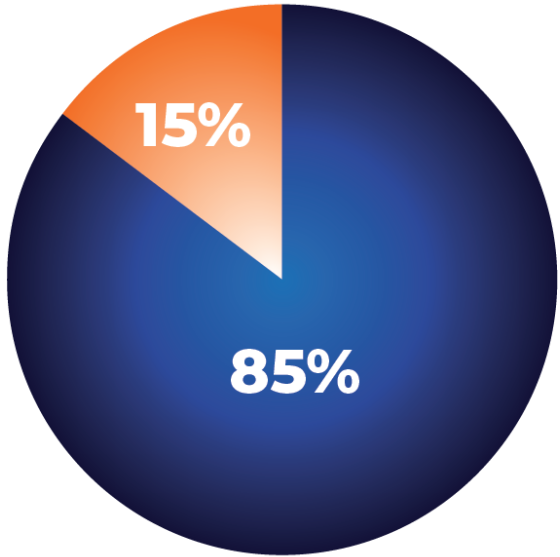
This is an estimated timeline based on positive community support, typical planning, and the NY State Education Department approval and bidding process.



PROJECT FUNDING

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2024-2026

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



- ANTICIPATED STATE BUILDING AID
- CAPITAL RESERVE

Capital Project	\$17,875,000
Anticipated State Building Aid	\$15,295,000
Capital Reserve	\$2,500,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$17,875,000
ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT	\$ZERO

The project will be funded with **NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT** for residents of the Elmira Heights Central School District.

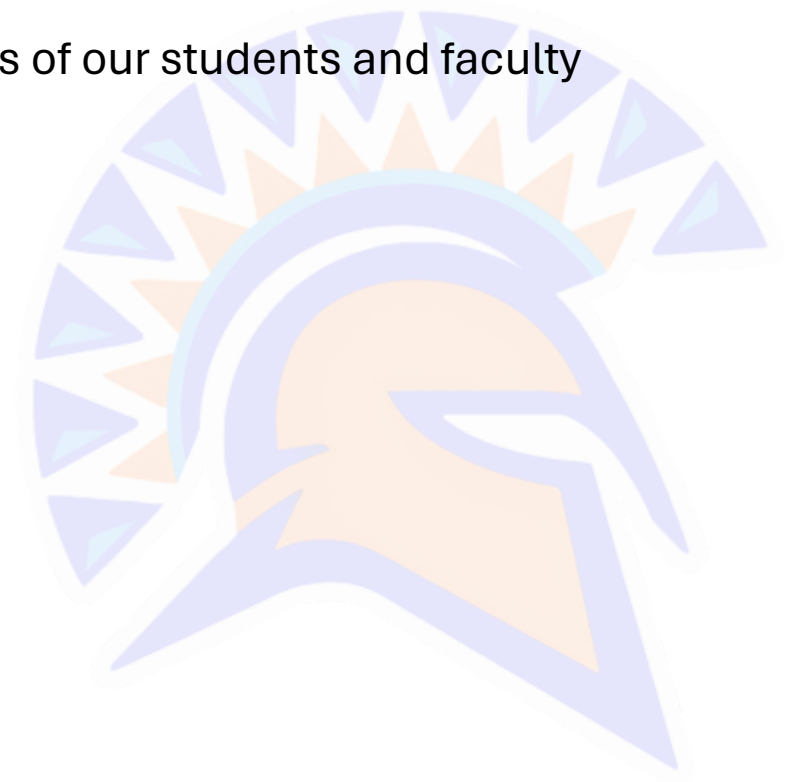
WHY NOW?

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2024-2026

WHY ARE CAPITAL PROJECTS ESSENTIAL?

- Address the infrastructure, educational, health, safety, and security needs of our students and faculty
- Improve the learning environment for our students and staff
- Protect the community investment in our schools
- Take advantage of state aid
- Quality school districts help economic development
- Prepare for future needs of the Elmira Heights School District
- Continue to provide opportunities for our students

NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT



VOTE INFORMATION

VOTE DAY

WHEN: MARCH 12, 2024

LOCATION: THOMAS A. EDISON – GYMANSIUM

TIME: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM





Preliminary Budget Information

March 6, 2024



Budget Assumptions

- Maintain current academic and extracurricular programming
- Maintain current staffing levels
- On-going Professional Development
- Continue to implement Technology Plan
- School Bus Replacement Schedule
Purchase of Two
Type C - 65 Passenger Buses
- Equipment replacement schedule
- Athletics- maintain current programming
additional of Varsity Soccer

Budget Assumptions

- Contractual Salary increase – ??
- Health Insurance – preliminary increase of 12%
- GST BOCES – Initial proposal increase of 7.82%
Budget meeting scheduled for 2/29/24
- TRS Employer Contribution Rate – increase from 9.76% to 10.02%
- ERS Employer Contribution Rate – increase from 13.1% to 15.2%

Executive Budget Proposals

- **Foundation Aid**

Inflation Factor – a reduction in the inflation factor used to update to formula each year. Under current law the adjustment would be 4.1% and Governor’s proposal to reduce to 2.4% using multi-year average

Elimination of the Save Harmless –For decades NYS guaranteed District would continue to receive as much operating aid as previous year. Executive proposal eliminates protection and instead institutes a “transition adjustment”

- **Expense-based Aid**

No consolidation or reductions to any of the expense -based aid categories

- **Prior Year Adjustments**

Fourth year in a row, Executive Budget provides no funding of prior year adjustments



2024-25 Executive Budget School Aid Proposal

District: ELMIRA HEIGHTS CSD

County: Chemung

Aid Categories	2023-24	2024-25	Change	% Change
Foundation Aid	12,836,657	14,315,518	1,478,861	11.5%
Charter School Transition Aid	-	-	-	NA
High Tax Aid	-	-	-	NA
Summer Transportation Aid	-	-	-	NA
Transportation Aid w/o Summer	678,321	750,412	72,091	10.6%
Building Aid	1,893,907	1,299,985	(593,922)	-31.4%
Building Reorganization Aid	-	-	-	NA
Operating Reorganization Incentive Aid	-	-	-	NA
Non-BOCES Computer Administration Aid	-	-	-	NA
Non-BOCES Career Education Aid	-	-	-	NA
Non-BOCES Academic Improvement Aid	-	-	-	NA
BOCES AID	2,124,739	2,670,323	545,584	25.7%
Public Excess Cost High Cost Aid	406,743	337,055	(69,688)	-17.1%
Private Excess Cost Aid	-	-	-	NA
Software Aid	6,543	16,313	9,770	149.3%
Library Materials Aid	6,525	6,806	281	4.3%
Textbook Aid	32,380	62,968	30,588	94.5%
Hardware and Technology Aid	20,894	21,820	926	4.4%
Full-Day Kindergarten Conversion Aid	-	-	-	NA
Universal Prekindergarten Aid	340,155	340,155	-	0.0%
Supplemental Public Excess Cost Aid	-	-	-	NA
Academic Enhancement Aid	-	-	-	NA
Total Aid	18,346,864	19,821,355	1,474,491	8.0%
Total Aid excluding Building Aids	16,452,957	18,521,370	2,068,413	12.6%

SOURCE: Compiled by NYSCOSS from New York State Education Department School Aid data

Preliminary Tax Cap

Elmira Heights Central School District	
Tax Levy Limit Determination (Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011)	
2024-2025 Fiscal Year	
Tax Levy Cap - Calculations and Totals	
Tax Levy Limit (Cap) Before Exclusions	
Tax Levy Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 06/30/2024	\$8,435,523
Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount from FYE 06/30/2024	\$0
Tax Base Growth Factor**	1.0085
PILOTS receivable FYE 06/30/2024	\$76,782
Capital Tax Levy for FYE 06/30/2024	295,634
Allowable levy growth factor***	1.0200
PILOTS receivable FYE 06/30/2025	\$99,463
Available Carryover from FYE 06/30/2024	\$0
Total Levy Limit Before Exclusions	\$8,354,677
** As determined by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS)	
*** As determined by the NYS Office of the State Comptroller	

Preliminary Tax Cap

Exclusions	
Tax levy necessary for expenditures resulting from tort orders/judgments over 5% FYE 06/30/2024 tax levy	\$0
Capital Tax Levy for FYE 06/30/2025	\$231,910
Tax levy necessary for pension contribution expenditures caused by growth in ERS	\$1,636
TRS	\$0
Total Exclusions	\$ 233,546
Tax Levy Limit, Plus Exclusions	\$ 8,588,223
Tax Levy Limit, Plus Exclusions %	1.81%
Proposed Levy for FYE 06/30/2025	\$8,588,223
Difference Between Tax Levy Limit Plus Exclusions and Proposed Levy	(\$0)
Do you plan to override the cap in 2024?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

Projected Revenue

Account	2023-2024 Adopted Budget	2024-2025 Proposed Budget	Dollar Difference	Percent Difference
Real Property Tax Items	8,532,323	8,681,519	149,196	1.75%
Charges For Services	66,000	61,000	(5,000)	-7.58%
Use of Money & Property	151,524	158,524	7,000	4.62%
Reimbursements/Refunds	351,000	366,000	15,000	4.27%
State Aid	18,724,232	19,859,390	1,135,158	6.06%
Federal Aid	50,000	50,000	-	0.00%
Appropriated Reserves & Fund Balance	-	-	-	0.00%
Total	27,875,079	29,176,433	1,301,354	4.67%

GST BOCES Initial Budget Request

Code	Description	2023-24 Initial Request	2024-25 Initial Request	\$ Change Year to Year	% Change Year to Year
1010	Board of Education	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0.00%
1310	Business Administration	\$ 603,101	\$ 642,048	\$ 38,947	6.07%
1680	Computer Services	\$ 894,871	\$ 950,567	\$ 55,696	5.86%
1981	BOCES Administration	\$ 496,740	\$ 507,739	\$ 10,999	2.17%
2020	Supervision	\$ 3,800	\$ 4,200	\$ 400	9.52%
2060	Research/Planning/Evaluation	\$ 7,133	\$ 7,015	\$ (118)	-1.68%
2070	In-Service	\$ 190,709	\$ 224,251	\$ 33,542	14.96%
2110	Teaching - Regular	\$ 630,412	\$ 414,392	\$ (216,020)	-52.13%
2250	Special Education	\$ 2,720,825	\$ 3,353,840	\$ 633,015	18.87%
2280	Occupational Education	\$ 1,153,901	\$ 1,221,662	\$ 67,761	5.55%
2330	Teaching - Special	\$ 198,115	\$ 278,537	\$ 80,422	28.87%
5510	Transportation	\$ 1,807	\$ 1,872	\$ 65	3.47%
	TOTAL BOCES BUDGETED	\$ 6,902,414	\$ 7,607,123	\$ 704,709	10.21%

Projected Expenditures

Account	2023-2024 Adopted Budget	2024-2025 Proposed Budget	Dollar Difference	Percent Difference
General Support	4,218,096	4,518,951	300,855	7.13%
Instructional	13,615,400	15,535,091	1,919,691	14.10%
Transportation	739,607	715,069	(24,538)	-3.32%
Employee Benefits	5,713,255	6,152,648	439,393	7.69%
Debt Service	2,318,721	2,104,674	(214,047)	-9.23%
Interfund Transfer	1,270,000	150,000	(1,120,000)	-88.19%
Total	27,875,079	29,176,433	1,301,354	4.67%

Questions?
