Sayville School District & Board of Education Seek Voter Approval for Bond Referendum

Sayville School District and the Board of Education are seeking voter approval for a Bond Referendum of $15 million that would fund necessary upgrades and enhancements to District Facilities. These include:

- Covering the estimated costs of re-surfacing (i.e., re-skinning) the roofs for all District buildings (except the Middle School), with replacement and re-securing of perimeters, and new metal edging. The proposed bond work will segue into potential Energy Performance Contracts, including solar panels and other energy-efficiency options;
- If remaining Bond funds allow, the completion of the Air Conditioning/HVAC upgrade at Sayville High School Auditorium (previously approved under 2015 Bond Referendum).

The Bond Referendum will be up for vote on May 17, 2022 along with the Proposed Budget.

Q. Why Seek a Bond NOW?

A. The proposed Bond is the fiscally most prudent strategy to fund capital projects because it utilizes the anticipated precipitous decrease in Debt Service. This significant drop is a “window of opportunity” to fund capital improvements and spread the cost of these improvement over a fifteen-year period, thereby continuing to ensure a decrease in the District’s Debt-Service payments beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

Q. Why Fund Major Capital Projects with a BOND rather than the School Budget?

A. The goal of financing capital projects with a Bond is to spread the payments over a period of time to align the Debt-Service payments with the annual Building Aid, resulting in a minimal effect on the tax rate. Whether the District uses the Budget or the Bond, capital improvements must be done, but using a Bond Referendum rather than the Annual Budget is the most fiscally responsible way to fund these high-cost capital items and receive 68% State Aid back on the bonded projects.

Q. Why upgrade our school-district facilities?

A. As stated in the NYS RESCUE Regulations, Sayville School District is required to fund the necessary maintenance of our facilities so as to ensure a safe environment for our students and staff; while mandated changes to the instructional program require certain alterations to our facilities.

To relieve some of the fiscal burden, NYS pays school districts building aid on approved capital projects. (Sayville School District’s Aid ratio is 68% or 0.68 cents on every approved capital-expenditure dollar, but there are some expenses not eligible for Building Aid.)

Based on this building-aid formula, it is more cost-effective to do a Bond Referendum for approved capital improvements, rather than include the entire cost within a single, annual budget. A Bond Referendum prevents the taxpayers from funding the cost of the entire project up-front through the annual budget.

Simply put, while the annual School Budget funds Instructional programs and some capital improvements, the Bond will fund maintenance upgrades at our facilities that would otherwise be cost prohibitive if included in the Budget. In addition, the Bond will better serve to align the annual debt service with building-aid payments over the useful life of each project.

Please check the District Website at www.sayvilleschools.org and go to the Business Office/Budget Presentations for more details about the Bond.
Q. What is the effect on the 2022-2023 School Budget if the voters approve a $15 million Bond Referendum?

Bonding Scenarios chart (below) demonstrates that, from the 2020 school year, the District will see a decrease in debt service of $735,538. If the $15-million Bond referendum passes, the debt service in the 2023-2024 school year will be restored and continue to decrease through the life of all capital school-bonded debt. The bottom line is the savings grow throughout the life of the Bond.

Q. Why Choose Re-Skinning instead of a Full-Roof Replacement?

As the District looks to replace the existing roofing membrane (surface) of approximately 350,000 sq. ft. over five buildings, costs are a major consideration. The cost to rip, remove, and replace an existing roof structure is significantly greater by over $11,000,000 or an increase in the price of $31 sq. ft.

It is important to note that existing roofing components, (e.g., insulation) are in excellent condition and a full roof replacement would not be a cost-effective approach at this time.

The School Budget and a Separate $15 million Bond Referendum will both be up for voter approval on May 17, 2022 in the Old Junior High Gym from 7AM to 9PM. You may use the Greeley Avenue entrance both for convenient parking and Handicapped parking located near the gym doors.