

# Together We Can



## Newfane 2020- *Building Our Future*

The Newfane Central School District is excited to present to our community a significant capital improvement project for the district and the community. This far-reaching project will bring important building security upgrades to each of our four buildings, provide for a total refurbishment of our performing arts auditorium, bring long-overdue improvements to our athletic facilities and address much needed infrastructure concerns (roofing, heating, bathrooms, parking lots) across the district. This capital project represents the first comprehensive, district-wide facilities improvement plan to be presented to the Newfane community in nearly twenty years.

### **Security enhancements**

In each building, the main entrances will be reconfigured so that all building visitors will be routed into a secure foyer area and then into the Main Office before they can enter the actual building. This will provide additional layers of screening and allow for verification and documentation of purpose after a visitor has been greeted and “buzzed” through the main door. In addition, throughout the buildings, we will be replacing the hardware on the classroom doors that will allow the doors to be secured quickly from within the room with the push of a button.

### **Performing Arts Center**

The auditorium at Newfane Middle School serves as the sole venue in the District for meetings, concerts, plays and musicals. While we have done some minimal repairs and upgrades over the last several years, the entire auditorium is long overdue for a major overhaul. In this capital project, we plan to replace all the seats, replace and upgrade the lighting (both on stage and in the seating areas) and the sound system, as well as improve the acoustics in the space. Improving air flow and ventilation of the auditorium will also be a major focus, as well as bringing the facility into full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Our incredibly talented student-performers deserve a modern, state of the art facility to showcase their many talents; this part of the capital project will provide such a venue.

### **Athletic Facilities**

This capital project also includes building a multi-sport, synthetic turf, lighted athletic facility behind Newfane High School. This facility would include all-weather baseball and softball fields with dugouts and bullpens, and a main competition field lined for football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. Bleacher seating for 1000 fans, a pressbox, state of the art sound system and concession stand/comfort station are all part of the proposed design, as is the replacement of our current three tennis courts with a six-court facility lined for tennis and pickleball. While the track and field facility will remain in its current location behind the middle school, funds are also included in this project to resurface the track, add an eight lane straightway and relocate and refurbish the field event facilities.

## **Infrastructure**

In addition to those three areas, much of the capital project spending will be used for some very necessary, but much less obvious infrastructure improvements:

***Newfane Early Childhood Center-*** in addition to completing the roof replacement at NECC, the project includes upgrades to the heating system and refurbishing the student restrooms in the building. We will also be doing some paving and lighting around the driveways, bus loop and parking lot.

***Newfane Elementary School-*** Similar to the Early Childhood Center, Newfane Elementary will see their student restrooms refurbished and made ADA compliant. Completing the roof replacement along with repaving the parking lot, bus loop and upgrading the outdoor lighting will be the other focus areas at the EI.

***Newfane Middle School-*** continuing the roof replacement at the Middle School adds some additional challenges since the building falls under the oversight of the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). The original slate roof on the front of the building desperately needs replacing. Unfortunately, using the original materials is not viable due to cost and availability. However, our architects have worked closely with SHPO to identify roofing materials that will maintain the historical integrity and look of the building while offering all the weather protection of modern materials at an affordable price. In addition to the roofs, some parking lot areas and driveways will be resurfaced, and the exterior building doors on the bus circle will be replaced. Both the boys and the girls locker rooms will get a facelift, as well as the spectator bathrooms near the track. The project also provides funds to convert the current district signboard, generously donated by the PTSA in 1997, to a digital display format.

***Newfane High School-*** the exterior work at the high school will include finishing the roof replacement and extending and repaving the student parking area. The site work on that campus also includes adding a second driveway exiting from the student parking lot onto Transit Road north of the current parking lot entrance. Inside the building, plans include the completion of the ceiling and wall tile replacement project that we began in the cafeterias and the main entrance several years ago and the expansion of the computer media center in the library.

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## **Project Funding**

The Newfane Board of Education worked very closely with our administrative team, financial advisors, architects and construction managers to put together a capital project that would meet the needs of our students and our district in a fiscally responsible way. The goal throughout the process was to create a capital project that would not force us to increase taxes. And while this capital project carries a price tag of \$30,549,000, we will **NOT** need to raise your taxes to fund this project.

This is possible because:

- The district has a high reimbursement/ building aid rate from the State of New York for projects that are aidable- around 87%. What that means is that for every \$1.00 we spend on the state-aidable parts of the project, we get \$0.87 back from the state in aid;
- The district has \$7 million available in a “capital reserve” fund. This fund, which the voters approved last June, allowed the District to set aside a significant amount of money to help fund the project- specifically the parts of the project (“incidental costs” or “site work”) that are not eligible for the 87% reimbursement and that would otherwise have to be paid for through tax increases;
- This capital project has been “timed and sized” specifically to take advantage of our current debt obligations. As Newfane CSD pays off its old debt from previous capital projects, it will replace it with new debt of the same value for this new capital project. We then achieve a major goal of this capital project – no increase in taxes to pay for these improvements.

We are extremely excited to be able to bring these significant capital improvements not only to our district, but to the entire Newfane Community. Like the Aquatic Center at Newfane Elementary and the Fitness Center at Newfane High School, we look forward to expanding our connection with our community through these important and long overdue improvements to our facilities- for our students, our families and our town.

For more information, please feel free to contact Michael Baumann, Superintendent of Schools at 716-778-6850

Or email us at: [NCSD2020buildingourfuture@newfanecentralschools.org](mailto:NCSD2020buildingourfuture@newfanecentralschools.org)

Or visit: <https://www.newfane.wnyric.org/domain/315>

### **Capital Project Community Presentations**

(live-streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/newfanehighschool>):

Thursday, November 19, 2020 @ 7:00PM

Thursday, December 10, 2020 @ 7:00PM

### **Capital Project Referendum Vote:**

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

12:00-8:00PM, Miller Hose Fire Hall

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