

## An Important Message from Your Board of Education

In the final days before the New Paltz Central School District Capital Project public referendum, we would like to encourage all eligible voters to cast their ballots on October 28 from 12 Noon to 9 PM at the New Paltz High School Gym.

As members of the Board of Education, we place the highest value possible on building and keeping the trust of our community. We are also your neighbors, your friends, moms and dads, and taxpayers in this community. We want to assure you that the development of the proposal was done with careful and thorough consideration of numerous factors, especially student and staff safety and taxpayer cost.

We were elected and have a responsibility to address district-wide infrastructure needs, as well as find solutions for the lack of adequate classroom space in our Middle and High Schools. In determining our recommended course of action, we looked at long-term solutions and examined multiple options, including closing the Middle School. After extensive discussion and consideration of both the financial and educational impact of these options, we ultimately selected a plan that accomplishes the highest priority work and results in the least cost to our taxpayers.

Repayment of the project is designed to maximize the benefits of State Aid reimbursement and leverage repayment opportunities created by the retirement of existing District debt. These factors will allow us to complete \$52.9 million of work at an estimated annual cost to the local taxpayer of \$20 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

We have intentionally been conservative in our estimates to allow for fluctuations in interest rates, State Aid, or project costs. Our State Aid estimations have been calculated by both KG&D Architects and our Assistant Superintendent for Business, Richard Linden. Both have extensive experience in school building finance. As an added level of due diligence, Superintendent Maria Rice has spoken with Carl T. Thurnau, the Director of Facilities Planning at the New York State Education Department. Subsequently, Mr. Linden reviewed details of the financial plan with members of the State's Facilities Planning Department and is confident that our projected State Aid reimbursement is estimated correctly. In addition, Mr. Linden confirmed that interest on the project is also aidable. Details are posted on our website at [www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/project](http://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/project).

We also secured the services of a construction management firm to offer a second opinion on the cost estimates and, if approved by the voters, to manage the construction of the project to help ensure that high quality work is completed on time and on budget. Students will not be relocated during this project. The planning of disruptive construction will take student learning into account and will primarily occur during nights, weekends, and summers.

Even with our extensive preparation, we understand that voters may have questions. We urge you to contact us. We are confident in our planning and projections, and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have. Please call the District at 845-256-4010 or email us at [project@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:project@newpaltz.k12.ny.us). Many details can also be found on our website at [www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/project](http://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/project)

Sincerely,

Brian Cournoyer, President

Ruth Quinn, Vice President

Steven Greenfield

Aimee Hemminger

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Timothy Rogers

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