

New Paltz Central School District Update on Capital Project

Follow Our Progress! **An Update on the NPCSD Capital Project as of 2/8/2016**

Our architects and project managers have made significant progress in the construction planning phase of the District's \$52.9 million capital project.

The full scope of the Capital Project has been divided into 11 smaller projects for planning and management purposes. Each project must go through five phases before work is complete.

First, plans are prepared and submitted to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for approval and to obtain a building permit. Obtaining State approval (phase two) has been a slow process, but we are encouraged by a recent announcement that the NYSED has added additional staff to relieve its current backlog. As of February 8, 2016, plans for all but two of the District's 11 projects have been submitted to the NYSED, and five of them have already received approval.

Once the NYSED approves the plans, a formal competitive bidding process is initiated (phase three). During this process, details about the work are specified and advertised so that qualified vendors can submit formal quotes for completing the work. Once the bidding period closes, proposals are carefully examined and compared so the Board of Education can award the work to the lowest, qualified, responsible bidder. Four projects have moved into the bidding phase, with two of them progressing to phase four: awarding projects to vendors.

After contracts are awarded, the project can move into the fifth and most exciting phase: construction. Two projects are currently in the construction phase: replacing the folding walls at Lenape and the High School, and replacing the septic system at the Transportation Center on the High School campus.

During construction, if any unforeseen condition is discovered, the contractors alert us to the need for a "change order," which is a mechanism for handling unanticipated work that alters the original contract amount or completion date (all change orders must be pre-authorized according to the District's policy). Contingency funds have been built into the project budget to cover the cost of change orders.

Once the work is finished, some additional steps are necessary before we officially conclude the final stage: project completion. The contractor usually ends up with a "punch list" of odds and ends that need to be taken care of related to the work. When the District is satisfied that all work has been completed, contracts can be closed out. The District then submits its Final Cost Report

(which details contracts and expenditures) to the NYSED for approval and the initiation of State Building Aid payments.

The Board of Education is committed to keeping the community up to date on the project's progress. We have been carefully monitoring the process to ensure work is being delivered as promised and to ensure an on-time and on-budget completion.

Display boards tracking the progress can be found throughout the District. Progress will also be posted to the Website. During the first Board meeting of each month, the Board also receives an official update from its construction management and architectural professionals. The community is encouraged to attend these meetings or view them online.

Anyone with specific questions or concerns related to the project is encouraged to contact us. The Board of Education typically meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (the time and location can always be found on the Website). Meetings begin and end with an opportunity for public comment. The Board can also be reached via email at BOE@newpaltz.k12.ny.us or by phone at (845) 256-4031.

Sincerely,

Brian Cournoyer, Aimee Gertler-Hemminger, Alison Easton,
Steven Greenfield, Michael O'Donnell,
Dominick Profaci, Julie Tresco
New Paltz Central School District Board of Education