

## **Capital Project Information Session Notes**

**May 13, 2024 at 6:00pm**

**Meeting Location: Fort Edward Union Free School District - Library**

*This meeting was also live streamed as part of the Budget Hearing and Board of Education Meeting. The link for that stream is:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/live/IP0NsTSbCT4?feature=shared>*

Richard DeMallie presented the Capital Project Information from the Fort Edward Website

1. Richard DeMallie thanked Garrett Hamlin from TetraTech, Eric Robert and Paul Lamoy from SchoolHouse Construction for being at the Capital Project Information Session
2. Capital Project
  - a. Safety and Security
  - b. Facilities Improvements
  - c. Roofing Repair
  - d. HVAC
3. On May 21, 2024, Fort Edward Union Free School District voters will vote on a \$14,700,000 capital project titled, "Fortify our Future". The Capital Project is 90% funded through state aid and is a tax-neutral project for the Fort Edward community. This project will have no additional impact on your taxes!
4. Safety and security enhancements
  - a. New sidewalks and paving in select areas around the building
  - b. New sidewalks across the front of the building
  - c. Exterior lighting will be added, and older fixtures will be updated or replaced
  - d. Paving will be completed to replace failing asphalt in the parking lots and walkways. This will also include better automobile access to our track area.
  - e. Our schools' main entrance will also be reconfigured for a secure visitor waiting area
  - f. Add a school wide backup generator for use during an emergency
5. Facilities Improvements
  - a. Replacement of original materials, such as replacing wall pads in the gym and repairing the football field irrigation system
  - b. Exterior of the high school will see masonry wall repairs and cleaning
  - c. The original gymnasium padding will be replaced
  - d. The staining of the brick on the first of the high school will be removed
  - e. Mortar of the original brickwork needs to be repointed to return it to its original condition
  - f. Playground Redesign and Improvements = make ADA Complaint to allow all students to be able to utilize
6. Roofing Repair

- a. Address various roofing issues across our buildings (where roofing damage or leaks have occurred)
  - b. Various rooftop exhaust fans will also be replaced and tied into our building's HVAC control system
  - c. Roof flashing that has failed and needs repair / replacement
  - d. Sections of roof have exposed fasteners showing through the surface, requiring the roof to be replaced
  - e. The chimney cap has failed and will be replaced
7. HVAC
- a. Adding air conditioning to various parts of the building, including the main gymnasium, second floor of elementary school and selected classrooms on the third floor of the high school.
  - b. Replacement of vintage heating units and leaking HVAC piping
  - c. Enhance our DDC building controls to increase efficiency and energy savings across the district
  - d. Dust collector in our technology classroom will be replaced
  - e. Kiln ventilation unit in the art room will be replaced
8. Project Timeline
- a. May 21, 2024 - Capital Project Vote
  - b. May 2024 - January 2025 - Finalize Project Design Work
  - c. January 2025 - September 2025 - State Education Department Review
  - d. October 2025 - December 2025 - Send Project Out for Competitive Bids
  - e. January 2026 - December 2027 - Construction Phase
9. A Budget Summary is available on the website
10. A detailed breakdown of the capital project budget is also available on the website

## Questions

1. Stan Majeika, community member, stated that the cost of the capital project is coming out of current fund balance and has nothing to do with the budget as the capital project is essentially already paid for.
  - a. Richard DeMallie concurred that the capital project is being paid using the fund balance. He noted that the fund balance is monies that were already spent/in the budget from the taxpayers. There is no estimated tax increase per year for the proposed capital project. The district will receive 90% state aid and the community portion of the project (10%) will be paid using the district's current fund balance.
2. Peter Miles, community member, asked why A/C was being chosen for the gym since it is a large space vs. various smaller instructional spaces.
  - a. Richard DeMallie noted that they had looked at doing the entire high school but with the money allotment that they were trying to stay within, it could not be

done. He stated that two rooms on the third floor of the high school, where it gets the warmest, were selected and that choosing them can assist with the Regents testing. He further noted that the elementary second floor was chosen, as summer academy is run in that wing of the school. He then noted that the gym space was chosen as it is a community space that can help generate revenue. He also noted that the gym will likely be used as a mass testing site for the June Regents exams. Lastly, he noted that the staff and students were polled and they indicated that their request would be for the gym to have air conditioning.