

Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD

Our Schools

Capital Project Bond Referendum

Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Oyster Bay High School

A MESSAGE from Your *Board of Education*

Dear Community Residents,

This is an important time for the future of our school district. On Thursday, Dec. 17, residents will have an opportunity to vote on two separate bond propositions, which if approved will support repairs and improvements to our schools that will benefit our students and our community. After hosting numerous meetings and listening to the suggestions and concerns of parents, staff and residents, we are proposing two separate bond propositions for your consideration.

Oyster Bay High School is the cornerstone of our school district. Our fine and performing arts program is exemplary and a source of community pride. As student interest in our music programs increases, Proposition #1 focuses on improving and expanding Oyster Bay High School's fine and performing arts wing to address the growing enrollment in our music programs, to allow for greater flexibility in instruction, and to explore options for additional music and art curricula.

We live in a world where safety and security issues are ever-changing. The challenge is how to effectively protect our children and our community while maintaining an environment that is most welcoming for our students, parents and community. If approved by voters, Proposition #2 would support enhanced state-of-the-art security in all of our schools. The Board of Education and administration believe now is the time to upgrade our security districtwide. We believe our students deserve nothing less and our community expects it.

We hope you will find the information contained in this voter guide helpful. The details of the scope of work included in both Proposition #1 and Proposition #2 are explained, along with the associated financial information. For additional information, please visit the district's website at www.obenschools.org. Thank you for your continued support, and please plan to vote on Thursday, Dec. 17.

Sincerely,
Your Board of Education

Understanding the Proposed Scope of Work

The proposed bond referendum represents important decisions about the future of our school district. After hosting numerous community meetings and consulting with the district's architects, administrators, staff, parents and community residents, the Board of Education is proposing two separate bond propositions for voter consideration.

Proposition #1

If approved, Proposition #1 will fund the Oyster Bay High School fine and performing arts expansion and the completion of air conditioning installation in the auditorium. Student enrollment in the fine arts program is constantly expanding. The current facilities do not adequately provide the space needed to expand the music and art curricula, to take advantage of opportunities for students to participate in high-profile performances and the necessary instruction and rehearsal space required at a more advanced level. Students are rehearsing in overcrowded classrooms that minimize instruction and limit the district's ability to introduce more rigorous and challenging course offerings.

The high school auditorium is utilized by students and community groups throughout the district for various types of performances. The auditorium can quickly become oppressively hot for both performers and audience members. The current conditions impede our students' ability to properly rehearse and to perform to their ability. Completion of the air conditioning in the auditorium would improve the breathing air quality and provide a comfortable temperature that enhances student performance and improves the overall atmosphere for those attending and enjoying the performances.

Proposition #2

Like most school districts across Long Island, student, staff and visitor safety is of utmost importance. Our schools were never designed to address the safety and security challenges that exist today. The Board of Education and administration have been discussing improved security as part of the district's long-range plans.

If approved, Proposition #2 will fund additional safety measures to ensure our schools provide a level of security that meets our needs and is mindful of maintaining the comfort level of our community. All school lobbies will be secured and visitors will be asked to provide identification, which will be scanned and returned to the visitor before gaining access to areas where our children are learning. The information screened by the visitor management system can be customized, and once IDs have been cleared, it will actually be easier and faster to re-enter the schools in the future.

NYS Building Aid Will Fund 10% of the Cost, Reducing the Cost to Taxpayers

Scope of Work Included in the Bond

Proposition #1 Cost: \$6,990,791 Oyster Bay High School Fine and Performing Arts Expansion and Completion of AC Installation in Auditorium



- Redesign and expand music and art wing to better accommodate current and future student enrollment and to allow for greater flexibility to explore options for additional music and art curricula.
- Renovate three classrooms, including digital art room.
- Regain one instructional classroom in the main building by constructing a new 3-dimensional sculpture and design room.
- Relocate all art classes to one area of the high school.
- Complete the installation of air conditioning in the high school auditorium.
- Install air conditioning in the new music and art wing.
- Reconfigure and renovate existing choral room and band space.
- Combine and enlarge band and art space, including storage.
- Increase small group instructional space.
- Install state-of-the-art sound recording systems for music space.
- Replace three sets of first-floor corridor doors.
- Expansion of OBHS will preserve the existing traditional architecture of the building, similar to the design of the science wing.



“Note”-worthy Achievements

The district's fine and performing arts program is a source of school and community pride.

- The OBHS Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble performed twice at Carnegie Hall.
- The OBHS band program premiered two original compositions by Pulitzer Prize-winning composers.
- Members of the high school band program were invited to perform with members of the New York Philharmonic in concert at the Tilles Center.
- Members of the high school band program were selected to be a part of the NYSSMA All-State Symphonic Band.
- The high school mixed chorus was selected to perform at the observatory in the Empire State Building.
- Members of the 7/8 band program have been selected to participate in All-County concerts at the Tilles Center.
- The 5/6 chorus participated in a master class with nationally renowned conductor Dr. David Fryling.
- The Vernon Advanced Band performed at the New York State School Boards Association's annual conference.
- Members of the 2014-2015 AGAPAE Editorial Board were selected to present at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's annual conference at Columbia University.
- The Oyster Bay-East Norwich Community Band, founded in 1950 by Donald Luckenbill, performs free concerts on the front lawn of Oyster Bay High School every summer. It is a unique organization where high school students, college students, music teachers and other adult community members come together to make music, celebrate America, and honor Oyster Bay's hometown hero Teddy Roosevelt.
- Students from the OBHS Fine Arts Department have participated in the Adelphi University Art Foundations Program for select high school art students.
- OBHS fine art students have been admitted to competitive art colleges with scholarships, including: School of Visual Arts, Fashion Institute of Technology, Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute, Maryland Institute College of Art, Savannah College of Art and Design, Virginia Commonwealth University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Syracuse University and Columbia University.

**COST TO THE
AVERAGE
HOMEOWNER**

Approximately
18¢
Per Day

OR

Approximately
\$65
Per Year

**Cost of the Proposed Bond
\$7,816,791**

Proposition #2 Cost: \$826,000

Additional Safety and Security Measures at Oyster Bay High School, James H. Vernon School and Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School

Below are photos of enclosed lobbies currently used in other school districts.

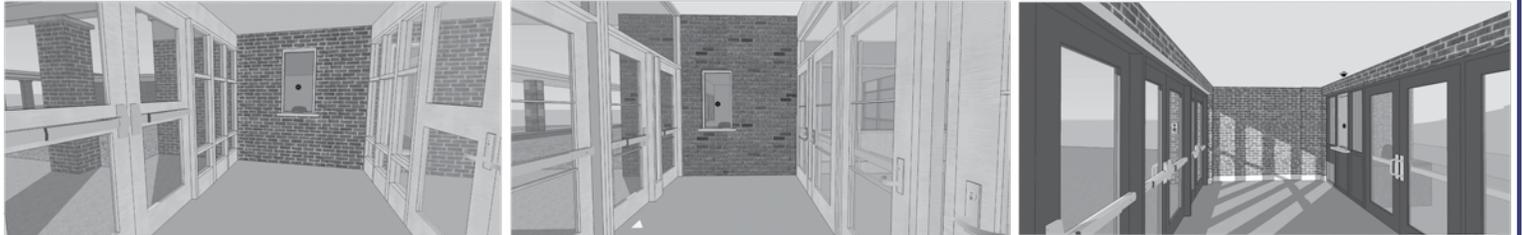


At any time, but especially in today's environment, the safety and security of our students, staff and community is of utmost importance.

- Reconstruct enclosed secured lobbies.
- Upgrade security card reader system for entry access.
- Install customizable visitor management system.
- Install additional security cameras.



Below are photos of the enclosed lobbies proposed in Proposition #2.



Theodore Roosevelt E.S.

James H. Vernon School

Oyster Bay H.S.

More Details About the Security Improvements

- All safety and security improvements will be designed to protect students, staff and community members while respecting the fact that the character of our schools and the welcoming environment must be maintained.
- The district will be able to customize the parameters to obtain information through the visitor management system. The minimum information required to ensure that safety protocols are implemented will be used.
- Once scanned, visitors will immediately be able to get back their ID cards (driver's license, etc.), unlike the current system, where visitors must retrieve their ID cards upon exiting the school.
- Future visits to the school will be expedited once the ID photo is in the system. There will be no need to re-take photos.

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Oyster Bay 11771
East Norwich 11732

Financial Facts

All figures are estimates and are based on 2015-2016 tax assessment data and home value assessments provided by Nassau County. Community members with individual questions are encouraged to contact the district's business office at 516-624-6510.

Proposition #1: \$6,990,791

Approximate Cost to the Average Homeowner
16¢ per Day or \$58 per Year

Proposition #2: \$826,000

Approximate Cost to the Average Homeowner
2¢ per Day or \$7 per Year

Both Proposition #1 and Proposition #2: \$7,816,791

Approximate Cost to the Average Homeowner
18¢ per Day or \$65 per Year

Important Information

- If voters approve the bond, New York State Building Aid will pay for 10 percent of the majority of the cost of the proposed scope of work. An approved bond will also enable the district to take advantage of historically low interest rates, further reducing the cost to taxpayers.

- If both propositions are approved, the maximum annual cost of the debt, over the 20-year life span of the bond, will be less than the expiring debt and will actually reduce the average homeowner's taxes by approximately \$18 per year.
- The cost of the proposed scope of work cannot be included in the district's annual budget without significantly increasing taxes and impacting program and services provided to students.
- New homeowners moving into the community will also pay their fair share of the bond.



Frequently Asked QUESTIONS

How was the proposed scope of work decided?

The Board of Education and administration met with administrators, teachers, parents and community residents to determine the needs and to narrow down the scope of work. The

work proposed will greatly improve the district's fine and performing arts curricular options and performance facility, and will ultimately benefit all students and community residents. After listening to the concerns of administrators, parents and

residents, it was decided that enhancements to the district's security measures would be included at this time as well.

How was the cost for the proposed scope of work determined?

Estimating the cost for the work proposed is different from estimating the cost for a home renovation, which is typically less comprehensive and can be completed in a shorter amount of time. The short- and long-range cost projections were determined based upon

the experience and industry knowledge of the district's architect, the current costs for similar work and the projected market increases until the projects are completed.

Once the bond is approved, can the funds be adjusted or used for other projects?

No. The district cannot borrow more than is authorized by voters and cannot use the money for purposes not authorized by the voters.

For more detailed information about the proposed bond referendum, visit the district's website at www.obenschools.org.

**Please Remember to Vote on
Thursday, Dec. 17 • 7 a.m.-9 p.m. • Oyster Bay High School**