



WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELEVATING STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES Proposed Capital Project

CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Large Instruction Room

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a United States citizen
- Must be a resident of the Whitehall Central School District a minimum of 30 days prior to the vote date
- Must be 18 years of age

ABSENTEE BALLOTS & EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

A completed application must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days before the vote, and no later than seven (7) days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. The ballot must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on voting day.

Applications for Absentee and Early Mail ballots are available on the district's website: railroaders.net

OR

To request a ballot please contact Heather Morcombe, District Clerk at hmorcombe@railroaders.net

Dear Whitehall Community Members,

On Tuesday, February 6, 2024, the Whitehall Board of Education (BOE) will seek voter approval of a proposed capital project unanimously recommended by the BOE. The project focuses on repurposing space in the Jr./Sr. High School, which will provide our students with the education and skills necessary to be competitive in their various future endeavors.

The BOE and school administrators, in collaboration with district architects Tetra Tech Architects, and the financial consultants of Bernard P. Donegan, Inc., explored several options. Serving our students and being fiscally responsible to our community were the top priorities. They concluded repurposing the natatorium would provide the much needed learning space the building currently lacks. Additionally, repurposing the space would serve the greatest number of students, with zero tax increase to the local share, meaning no increases to taxpayers.

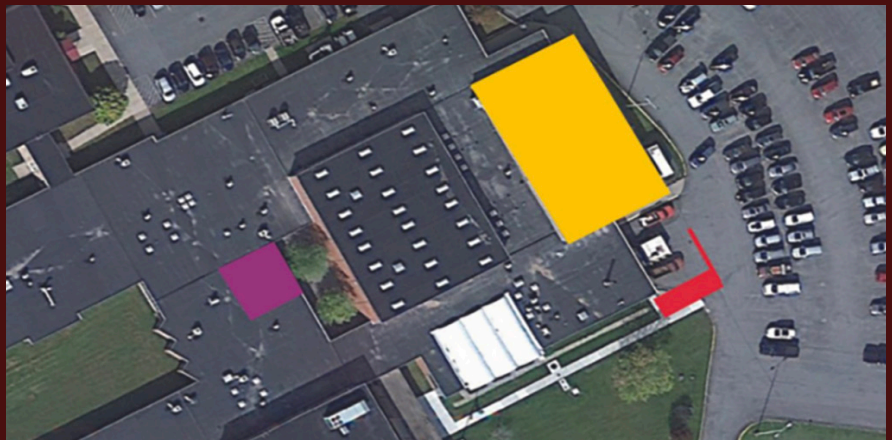
The project total is estimated at \$9,025,000. It will be funded by utilizing \$2,600,000 from the capital reserve fund. Since the project is not new construction, and does not change the blueprint of the building, the remaining balance of \$6,425,000 is eligible to receive NYS Building Aid.

I invite you to learn more about this project. In addition to this newsletter, there is information on the district's website railroaders.net. If you still have questions please do not hesitate to e-mail me at pdee@railroaders.net.

Sincerely,

Patrick Dee
Superintendent of Schools

AREAS IDENTIFIED TO BE REPURPOSED AT THE JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL



 Guidance Suite

 Natatorium

 Generator Relocation

WHY MORE LEARNING SPACE IS NEEDED

Although student enrollment has decreased, regulations to the following have changed:

NYS Education graduation requirements have increased per NYS Education Law.

Regulations to support learning, privacy, and confidentiality have increased per NYS Education Law.

Schools now provide many services traditionally located elsewhere, such as mental health services and other social issues.

NYS Graduation Requirements Have Changed, But Our Building Has Not

Local high school diplomas no longer exist. NYS Education requires that all students earn a NYS Regents diploma. This went into effect beginning the 2009 school year, with the first cohort of students under this mandate graduating in 2012.

We Offer An Education Beyond NYS Graduation Requirements

We are proud to offer an education above and beyond the minimum requirements by providing our students:

- Classes to earn a NYS Advanced Diploma
- Classes to earn a NYS Mastery Diploma
- Classes to earn up to 21 college credits upon graduating from high school

In order to offer these opportunities, classes beyond the required minimum number of required credits to graduate were added. However, in the building's current situation, the classroom space is still the blueprint to accommodate a curriculum in which students only needed to earn the minimum 22 credits.

The Building Is Outdated To Support The Curriculum The District Offers

The yellow column shows the curriculum the building currently supports

The blue, green, and purple columns show the curriculum the district currently provides

NYS credit requirements to graduate	Bare Minimum = Regents & Local Diplomas	For Advanced Diploma	100% Above and Beyond	Early Start To Earning College Credits
4 English	English 9, 10, 11, 12		ENG 101 (College Credit) ENG 102 (College Credit)	WHS pays for all the College Credit classes. Saving students up to \$4,000 in college tuition while they are still in high school
4 Social studies	Global 9, G 10, US Hist, SS 12		Am. Poli Hist 101 (College) Am. Poli Hist 102 (College) Psychology 101 (College)	
3 Math (1 Regent level)	Algebra Basic Math Basic Math	Geometry Algebra 2	Precalc (College Credit) Calc (College Credit) Statistics	
3 Science (1 Lab Regent level)	Living Environment Basic Science Basic Science	Earth Science	Chemistry Physics	
PE Health	2 Credits PE .5 Credit health			
1 Foreign Language	Spanish I	Spanish II Spanish III	Spanish 201 (College credit) Spanish 202 (College credit)	
1 Fine Art	Studio Art		Art 106	
3.5 Electives	3.5 Any other course	5 Credits of Fine Art 5 Credits of CTE	Band Chorus Jazz Band Bell Choir	

WHY MORE LEARNING SPACE IS NEEDED

Special Education Regulations Have Changed, But Our Building Has Not

There is not a dedicated resource room to provide special education. To meet the NYS Education law requirements:

- 13 Resource Rooms are needed daily
- 11 Academic Intervention Services (AIS) rooms are needed daily

The Role Of Schools Has Changed

Schools now serve as the hub for the much needed social and emotional services not available in our immediate community. These student services require private and confidential space and currently there is none. Without providing these services on-site, our students would miss valuable classroom time to travel to and from appointments, or worse - not receive the services at all.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How Has The District Been Able To Provide These Educational Opportunities & Services Without The Space?

- In addition to their regular responsibilities, every semester our school administrators dedicate a great deal of time to logistically determine which classrooms each course will be taught in
- In the building's current situation, 12 out of 15 of our high school teachers must vacate and turn over their classrooms throughout the day multiple times in order to create space for special education classes and other student services
- The only reason three of the 15 teachers do not have to turn over their classrooms to other teachers is because they are lab science rooms

Is There A Plan For Students Who Want To Swim?

Yes. The BOE and school administrators recognize the importance of providing students the opportunity to learn and practice swimming. In partnership with Castleton State College and Hudson Falls Central School District, our students may attend these swimming programs with transportation provided at no cost to students or their families.

How Will This Project Be Funded?

NYS Building Aid	\$6,425,000
Capital Reserve	\$2,600,000
Local Share	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$9,025,000

How Will This Project Be Funded With No Increase To Taxpayers?

The project total is estimated at \$9,025,000. It will be funded by utilizing \$2,600,000 from the capital reserve fund. Since the project is not new construction, and does not change the blueprint of the building, the remaining balance of \$6,425,000 is eligible to receive NYS Building Aid.

Did The BOE Explore Other Options?

Yes. Refurbishing the natatorium was explored. The cost is estimated at \$13,625,000. The full \$2,600,000 in the Capital Reserve would be available for funding. However, only \$8,672,966 of the project would be eligible for NYS Building Aid; leaving a balance of \$2,352,034 to be paid by the local taxpayers.

Additionally, there is projected annual expense of \$70,000 to properly maintain the pool per NYS Codes & Regulations. This includes heat, lights, chemicals, daily water testing 3 times per day 365 days per year. This expense would impact the annual school budget.

WHITEHALL Central School District

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railroaders.net

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Ona Lindberg, Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal
Adriana Strong, Elementary School Principal
Kendra Holbritter, Director of Special Education

Produced in cooperation with WSWHE BOCES Communication Services

EXAMPLES OF ARCHITECT RENDERINGS



Career & Technical
Education Space

STEM/Coding/VEX
Space



Flex Student
Workspace

Additional architect renderings can be seen by visiting railroaders.net

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT? PROPOSITION #1

SHALL the Board of Education of the School District be authorized to (1) reconstruct, renovate and improve various School District buildings, facilities and sites, acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings, facilities and sites are used and pay incidental costs related thereto, at a maximum cost of \$(9,025,000), (2) expend such sum for such purpose, including the expenditure of \$2,600,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, taking into account state aid, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid received and the expenditure from the Capital Reserve Fund; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principle amount not to exceed \$(6,425,000), and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

YES NO