Why Not Do A Capital Project?

Each and every day, nearly 900 children and 150 staff members pass through our doors. Additionally, the community comes together in the evenings and on weekends to share in a multitude of events, celebrations and learning sessions within our buildings and grounds. Maintaining and protecting these assets in a safe, healthy, and sound manner is paramount in providing the best learning environment for our community. These day-to-day repairs fall into the realm of our general operations budget and are accounted for year by year.

As with a home, certain items (like roofs and sewer lines) can only be repaired and patched so many times before the product reaches the end of its life cycle and replacement becomes necessary. Although our operations budget allows for general repairs and maintenance, we do not account for these larger scale capital upgrades or replacements. These fall into the category of “capital improvement projects.”

The State Education Department (SED) encourages school districts to undertake a routine schedule of capital improvements to maintain their facilities and grounds. To assist in this process, the SED requires annual visual inspection reports, building condition surveys, and a five-year plan to be developed and reviewed on a cyclical basis. As further incentive, the SED also provides districts reimbursement through “building aid” for capital projects.

The state will pay a percentage of capital project costs, and the district pays the balance known as “Local Share,” which we already have set aside in our Capital Reserve Fund. Our current building aid ratio is 88.8% and, therefore, the State would provide for approximately 90 cents of every dollar on aidable work within our buildings! If these projects were to be done out of our operations budget, we would need to fund 100% of it as local share, which is not practical.

Our District and our Board of Education have been very diligent in planning ahead for needed capital work and have had the foresight to establish a capital reserve account to offset the balance of the money for repairs. This money is already set aside, much like a savings account, to specifically offset any local share for a capital project and can enable us to address some of our capital needs with NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE TAX PAYERS!

Please vote on this important issue on Tuesday, April 9.

Sincerely,
The Manchester-Shortsville Board of Education
Kristin Gray, President
Martha Flower, Vice President
Michael Liberty
Clinton Krager
Edward Clarke
Richard Vienna
Shawn Pollock

QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS AT DISTRICT MEETINGS

A person shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting or election of school district officers, and upon all other matters which may be brought before such meeting or election who is:

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. At least 18 years of age.
3. A legal resident within the district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to December 11, 2012.

LEGAL ADDRESS IS THE ADDRESS ON YOUR

1. Driver’s license.
3. Car registration form.
4. Where you are registered to vote in county, state and federal elections.

TO VOTE YOU

1. DO NOT have to own property.
2. DO NOT have to be a parent or have children in school.

APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots are available at the District Office, 1506 Route 21, Shortsville, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each day other than Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, or by calling the District Office at 289-3964. The District Treasurer must receive this application at least seven 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 by the voter. Ballots must be returned to the District Office by 4:00 p.m. on April 9, 2013.

Voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot under the following conditions:

1. Illness or physical disability.
2. Business responsibilities which require travel outside of the district of residence on the day of the vote.
3. Vacation outside of the district of residence.
4. Detention or confinement in jail for an offense other than a felony.

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### Proposed Improvements

**Main Building:**
- Renovate 2 bathrooms to be accessible and repair collapsed drain piping.
- Doors (interior/exterior) - Selective replacement of hollow metal doors, fire-safe operation of magnetic hold-opens, hardware replacements.
- Asbestos remediation required in association with project work
- Interior door hardware - Replace existing hardware sets with new intruder-type locking devices, including ADA lever sets.
- Window blind replacements in classrooms.
- Auditorium Safety Updates - Replace outdated stage lighting, house lighting, associated electric panels, repair stairs, and provide a permanent control booth.
- Expand/replace panels, filled to pole capacity and beyond useful life and main panels.
- Add emergency lighting at exterior doors, provide emergency lighting at selected spaces, provide additional exit lighting at corridors.
- Add/Update additional security cameras inside the building to enhance security.
- Add new security cameras on the exterior of the building to enhance security.
- Fire Alarm System - Update system to meet current regulations for notification, initiation, and egress.
- Building Controls System - Replace control panels, front end, wiring, control elements, sensors, etc.
- Update ventilation system to meet current code.
- Add new water softener system to alleviate further degradation of water line systems.
- Replace aged library carpeting & lighting

**Sitework:**
- Replace site lighting poles in the front loop and parking lot that are beyond their useful life with new light poles to meet minimum standards.
- Extend pavement in front loop parking in area with stone, approximately 18 spaces.
- Repair sections of pavement where sinking, including catch basin areas and sidewalks on the south roadway.
- Replace high jump, pole vault, and long jump-pads.
- Add sidewalk to visitor seating.

**Bus Garage:**
- Replace 4000 gallon underground unleaded fuel tank. Provide new 2000 above-ground diesel tank. Convert 1000 gallon above-ground tank to unleaded.
- Provide fuel management system and leak detection. Replace fuel dispensers.
- Provide fire suppression system at unleaded fuel dispenser.
- Replace windows, service bay-wall moisture issues, and repainting.

### Questions & Answers

**Why do a Capital Project?**
- To take advantage of State aid incentives that we are provided. Our current building aid ratio is 88.8%; therefore, the State would provide for approximately 90 cents of every dollar on aidable work within our buildings!
- Because the local share is already set aside and can enable us to address some of our capital needs with NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE TAX PAYERS!
- To reduce annual repair costs and energy consumption.
- To provide for major capital expenditures that are not part of our annual operating budget.
- To reduce construction costs through bulk purchasing.
- To provide the best learning environment for our children and community by addressing aging, outdated, non-compliant, failing, or even hazardous items that occur over time.
- To address efficiency, safety, and/or security issues.

**What will the taxpayers’ share of construction costs be?**

The Board of Education decided from the beginning discussions that this proposition would be placed before the voters with no increase to the tax levy.

This is possible by allocating $585,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund, already set aside, in conjunction with state aid.

### Why Maintain Our Facilities and Grounds?

Well, certain items can no longer be maintained and have reached the end of their life or are failing. We need to address safety and security needs. We also need to bring our facilities into compliance with the American Disabilities Act as required by law. We don’t expect the SED’s contribution to capital project costs to get any better than they are currently. We also know that construction costs continue to escalate with each passing year; however, the construction industry is a very competitive marketplace right now. Owners who can undertake construction in this climate benefit from lower material and labor costs. If we choose to wait and pursue the same project in the future, we would expect the cost to be higher.

### Why is voter approval needed?

Voter approval is required to establish and expend funds from a capital reserve. Money placed into the reserve must be earmarked for specific projects, and can only be spent on those projects for which it was intended, via a voter referendum.

**At Manchester-Shortsville, our mission is to challenge all learners and work in partnership with students, parents and community to achieve high standards.**