

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET REVIEW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017

1. Call to Order – 7:30 p.m.

2. Attendance

BRAC: Mr. Poost, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Romanowski

Admin: Mr. Simons, Mr. Edson, Ms. Belmont, Mr. Craft

Board of Education: Mr. Buono

Guest: Mr. Ellsworth

3. Potential Capital Project

Mr. Simons and Mr. Edson gave a slide presentation of proposed capital work. Mr. Simons gave an overview of his experience with capital projects in his former district. He spoke of the need to keep buildings in good order to support student learning. Mr. Simons said there had been good stewardship of the District buildings and property, however a series of aging building systems need attention.

Mr. Edson provided a series of reasons why the District plans for capital projects, including requirements by the State Education Department and incentives in the form of building aid. He said that aging systems of the District are not unlike interior and exterior needs of a home over time. Mr. Edson explained that capital projects are reimbursed at 72.1% of eligible expenses whereas there is no reimbursement for items in the general fund maintenance budget.

Some of the themes in the presentation included aging systems resulting in more costly repairs, difficulty in finding replacement parts and qualified repair personnel, newer systems being more energy efficient with available incentives, and breakdowns cause disruption. Mr. Edson said that expiring debt will eliminate the financial impact of this proposed project. He shared that waiting until there is an emergency project is not viable.

From the building condition survey and five-year capital facilities plan, a series of building capital items were identified totaling approximately \$62 million. These items were then prioritized into two tiers: the first tier of \$39.6 million is suggested for a current capital project, the second tier of \$22.8 million may wait until the next planning cycle.

Mr. Edson reviewed the overall planning process, current priorities by building and by category. He said the individual capital item costs include overhead and inflation until the construction time. Mr. Simons gave an overview of the need to upgrade science and technology rooms to reflect a changing curriculum. Mr.

Edson showed pictures of failing casework, sinks, bathrooms, and gymnasium floors.

The second category of items included technology items such as phones, classroom computers, portable technology, wireless access, and television studios. Mr. Simons explained how portable technology would be used for student learning. The third category of capital items included smoke alarms, public address system, cameras, and card access. The fourth and largest category of items was for aging interior and exterior building systems and needed site improvements.

Mr. Edson suggested that the \$39.6 million be split into three separate propositions. Voting would be cumulative on the positions; a higher number proposition could not become effective if a lower number proposition did not pass. Mr. Edson explained the financial impact and how it would be eliminated with the savings from existing bonds maturing in 2019-2020. He reviewed the next steps to take if the Board of Education approves the plan.

BRAC members asked a number of questions and gave a series of suggestions to improve the presentation. Some examples of the suggestions included emphasizing the security features of new systems (such as remote access), categorizing classroom versus other technology, providing a time schedule of the construction, preparing a chart on the financial impact, disclosing that the new windows will be aluminum, disclosing the number of games held on the turf field, emphasizing how schools work on time (need working clocks), and discussing more about the cameras.

Mr. Simons thanked committee members for their valuable input.

- 4. Other**
- 5. Adjournment – 9:40 p.m.**