Proposed facilities improvement project nears October 18th vote

In 2015, a detailed survey of the conditions of all of our buildings was completed by architects and engineers as specified by education law. That survey is designed to help districts prioritize the most needed projects to be completed to ensure our facilities are appropriately maintained for student, staff, and community use.

Based upon that survey and discussions with staff, the board of education, after much deliberation, is proposing a capital project. The District has completed the planning process necessary to prepare for a referendum, including project scope, project cost, and sources of revenue. On July 11, 2016, the Board adopted a resolution to place a facilities improvement (capital) project plan before the voters to meet the identified needs. The general scope of work involves the following:

- Auditory renovation
- Common space renovation in high school and middle school
- HVAC and electrical upgrades in all buildings
- Fire alarm and smoke detection upgrades in all buildings
- Some pavement repair
- Transportation Center renovation

A more detailed scope of the work can be found as you read on.

PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING

This project has been planned with the goal of controlling project cost with no increase to the current tax rate. The total cost is projected to be $12.1 million. The majority of the funding for this project is generated from state building aid, which for Jamesville-Dewitt represents 71.9% of the cost. The project’s local funding is planned to coincide with the retirement of existing school district debt. The cost of the new debt incurred will equal the cost of the debt being retired, so there should be no change in local tax rate as a result of this project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

September 26: Public presentation
October 18, 2016: Referendum vote
November-April 2017: Final design

May-December 2017: Estimated SED review and approval
Spring 2018: Construction begins

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

PLEASE ATTEND:
Information session for proposed facilities project

WHEN:
7:00 PM
Monday, September 26th

WHERE:
High School
Large Group Room

VOTE:
Tuesday, October 18th
7:00 AM to 9:00 PM
High School Main Gym

MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Windows:
  - Replace windows and flashing
- Large Group Room:
  - Renovate with level floor space
- Pool:
  - Replace filter, chlorinator, controller
- HVAC:
  - Cool server room and main office
- Replace some controls
  - Electrical:
    - Add receptacles to classrooms
    - Replace and upgrade circuit panels
    - Label all panels and switch boards
    - Provide additional emergency lighting
    - Upgrade fire alarm and smoke detection systems
    - Replace clock system

TECUMSEH ELEMENTARY
- HVAC:
  - Cool server room
- Replace some controls
  - Electrical:
    - Add receptacles to classrooms
    - Replace and upgrade circuit panels

Continued on page 2
The Board of Education presents a variety of topics for discussion, including the renovation of the Auditorium, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of the school year. The district has invested heavily in technology, with plans to upgrade the HVAC system and improve the lighting for safer navigation. The Board is also considering the implementation of a new system for student assessment to better meet the needs of all learners. The superintendent highlights the importance of collaboration with teachers and parents to ensure a successful learning environment. The district is committed to providing the best possible education for all students, and the Board is dedicated to supporting this goal through strategic planning and effective leadership.
J-D welcomes new director, teachers and staff to district

Elementary, Middle & High Schools

### J-D welcomes new teachers to the school district

**High School**

- **Samantha Ross**, High School Science (Reg. sub)
  - Education: B.S. Environmental and Forest Biology, SUNY ESF; M.S. Biology
  - For the past three years, Ross taught Living Environment, Anatomy and Physiology, at Owego High School. She did her student teaching at Newtown K-8 school in the Syracuse City School District, and at Roboro Road Middle School, in the Cicero-North Syracuse Central School District. Ross has also worked as a teacher naturalist at the Carnegie and Audubon Society’s Coastal Center at Milford Point.

### Education Notebook: As new year opens, turning page on recent student success stories

**AP Success Soars**

Jamesville-DeWitt High School continues to achieve at very high levels on a record number of AP (Advanced Placement) examinations, which are based on college-level AP courses they elect to take. These courses are taught by our J-D teachers at the high school.

For the past eight years, Slade taught Spanish at Cortland Junior/Senior High School. For five of those eight years, she worked as the World Languages curriculum leader, serving as the liaison between the Department and the school community. Before teaching, Slade was a staff writer and editor for newspapers in Auburn and Skaneateles, N.Y., and a freelancer for Arthur Frommer’s Budget Travel magazine.

### Recent student success includes the State Champion girls’ basketball team, which helped earn J-DHS the title of CVNY’s top sports program.

This year, J-DHS capped the list of Section III champions in nearly perfectly competition. Points were awarded for investments in band, choral, and musical programs at the elementary-, middle-, and high-school levels.

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<th>Team</th>
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### Good luck to the new director, teachers, and staff members!

The student-athletes of Jamesville-DeWitt High School recently received the highest accolades when the Post-Standard recognized J-DHS as having the best high school sports program in Central New York for 2015-16. J-DHS capped the list of Section III’s Top 20 high school sports programs in a ranking that used a points system keyed to team sports performance. Points were given for Sectional championships and for advancing through State playoffs, with State Championships—of which J-DHS won two girls’ basketball and boys’ lacrosse—garnering the largest cache of points.

Along with the State Champion girls’ soccer, J-DHS teams also won Section III titles in girls’ basketball, girls’ and boys’ indoor track, boys’ lacrosse, girls’ outdoor track, girls’ soccer, girls’ softball, girls’ swimming, boys’ tennis, and girls’ gymnastics (team combined with F-M).

In addition to the Post-Standard award, it’s worth noting that most of these teams throughout 2015-16 also earned scholar-athlete designations from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for academic excellence.
District gives notification under the No Child Left Behind Act

J-D outlines policy on matters of harassment and discrimination

District does not plan to use pesticides on its grounds

How to
Reach Us

The J-D Journal is printed throughout the school year by the Jamesville-DeWitt School Board of Education.

Joe DeChick, Editor

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