

PINE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

Capital Improvement Project Initiative 2023

Frequently Asked Questions



Q. Why is the District having a capital project vote?

A. Our District is committed to exercising care and good judgment in managing the community resources with which we are entrusted. We need to continue to take care of our schools, an important asset the community owns. Just as one's home ages and needs restoration, replacement of poor- or non-functioning equipment, and regular upkeep to keep it in good shape, so do our schools. The District is addressing its highest-priority facilities needs now, rather than delaying and facing future higher costs and further deterioration. Sizable renovations like those included in this project would have a major impact on the tax rate if included in the annual District budget. A capital project is a fiscally responsible approach because New York State reimburses a vast majority of the construction costs that would otherwise be funded by the local taxpayers.

Q. How were the project's components chosen?

A. Over the past several years, the District administration and Board of Education have been developing a long-range facilities plan to assess current and future capital improvement needs and the means to responsibly achieve them. During this process, critical safety upgrades and building preservation needs were identified and prioritized, as were opportunities to enrich our students through educational program enhancements. To evaluate conditions at all facilities, the District utilized its Building Condition Survey (BCS), which is mandated by the State to be conducted every five years, and considered work completed in previous projects.

Q. What needs does the project address?

A. This project will address necessary improvements directly related to code compliance requirements, State Education Department (SED) regulations, deficiencies and deterioration identified through the BCS inspection process, fire/safety/health regulations, and replacement of items and equipment that are at the end of their useful life. For instance, parking and circulation improvements at the Elementary School will improve fire access and pedestrian safety. Sanitary piping replacements will address deterioration and code compliance. Improvements at the bus garage will address health, safety, and building security. In addition, electrical service upgrades will position Pine Valley to meet the reduced emissions standards mandated by New York State.

Q. What is the total cost of this proposed project, and how can it have NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT?

A. The total cost of the project is \$9,100,000. The project will be paid for using a combination of available State Building Aid and funds from the District's Capital Reserve, which is designated to be used specifically for capital improvements. The remaining portion of the local share will be fully offset by retiring debt service payments, resulting in a "tax neutral" financing plan.

Q. Isn't State Aid just my tax dollars too?

A. Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature has given all Districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars to enhance their facilities through capital improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to invest those tax dollars in our own community, working to improve the educational setting for our children, families, district staff, and the public community long into the future.

Q. What if the capital project vote does not pass?

A. The critical safety requirements and building preservation needs would still be absolutely necessary. If the referendum does not pass, these requirements would still need to be addressed. A capital project allows the District to receive partial reimbursement of the project's cost through State Building Aid. Without the State's aid, the funds for any required work would have to come from the annual budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost.

Q. When will the work take place?

A. After final design submission, it's expected that the State Education Department's approval for the project would be received in spring 2025 with the bulk of work starting that summer. It is anticipated that the project would be completed in 2026.

Q. Where can I find out more about the capital project proposal?







A. There is a Community Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Elementary Library. There will be a capital project presentation and an open forum for questions and answers. Additional information is available on the district website at www.pval.org and outside our main offices. This capital project newsletter has been mailed to all district residents.

Q. When and where is the capital project vote?

A. The capital project vote will be held on **Wednesday, December 13, from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. at the Jr/Sr High School New Gym Foyer**. You are entitled to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and have been a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No pre-registration is required. Absentee ballot applications are available at the district office. For more information, contact the District Clerk, Kristie Ling, at 716-988-3293, ext. 3307.

Project Information Sources:

Additional details about the proposed project are available through the following resources:

-  Information about the proposed project will be on display in each school lobby area
-  A Capital Improvement Project community meeting will be held Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elementary Library
-  Visit the district website at www.pval.org for project information and updates
-  Follow us on Twitter [@PVCSPanther](https://twitter.com/PVCSPanther)
-  Follow us on Instagram [@PVCSPanther](https://www.instagram.com/PVCSPanther)
-  Like us on Facebook — [PVCSPanther](https://www.facebook.com/PVCSPanther)

Important Dates:



COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Elementary Library

PUBLIC VOTE



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023
12:00 NOON TO 9:00 P.M.

Junior/Senior High School
New Gym Foyer

You are entitled to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and have been a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Absentee ballot applications are available at the district office. For more information, contact the District Clerk, Kristie Ling, at 716-988-3293, ext. 3307.