

What happens if the vote is no?

The District will lose this grant opportunity for construction/renovation and the State potentially will reassign these monies to another School District. The District will continue to pay \$105,000+ per year to use the Edgerton School in Newfield until we can no longer use that facility at which time we will have to find another School to rent somewhere else or find the funding to complete the Cleary project at that time. There are no guarantees that the State of New Jersey will fund projects in the future. As a result the entire cost of any part of these projects considered in the future will be paid by the taxpayers of Buena Borough and Buena Vista Township.

When do we vote?

Tuesday, December 14, 2010



Other questions? Please ask!

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BUENA REGIONAL SCHOOLS

Renovation Projects (Frequently Asked Questions)



What are the renovation projects?

There are five unique projects that were reviewed and approved by the state department of school facilities. The review process included a review of enrollment projections and current facilities to insure that the need was real and expenditures appropriate. On Tuesday December 14, there will be a special election asking for support for these activities.

- Collings Lakes Elementary School: replacement windows (41 years old)
- High School: replacement windows (oldest parts of the building, 40 years old)
- High School: locker room renovation/update (access, shower/toilet facilities and student safety issues)
- High School: auditorium renovation/update
- Cleary School: replace 1928 structure with one story addition, update entire Facility including Heating /Ventilation /Air Conditioning, electrical, handicapped access, technology infrastructure

Why renovate Cleary?

We currently house elementary students in two old buildings- Donini and Edgarton. The Donini School was constructed in 1915 and has its continued use been challenged. Edgarton was constructed in 1919 and belongs to the Newfield Board of Education. Nearly half of the enrollment in the Edgarton building is Buena residents, currently we pay over \$105,000 per year to use this building and Newfield pays tuition for their students attending our program. The existing Agreement with Newfield will be ending within the next couple of years. This means that if the renovations to Cleary are not completed before then, we must find another location, at potentially higher costs to the District, to house our students.

Students formerly housed at the Cleary School (grades 6-8) are now housed in the Buena Regional Middle School. With the renovations to the Cleary School to convert it to a modern elementary school we would be able to house all Buena students in modern Buena classrooms and no longer need to pay rent.

Why are the other projects necessary?

As indicated the windows in the Collings Lake and High School Buildings are over 40 years old. Heating and cooling the District's buildings costs the District a lot of money every year. The replacement windows are energy efficient and will result in decreasing the cost to the District for heating and cooling both of these buildings. The savings realized will eventually make up for the costs incurred. The windows will also make the building more comfortable for students and staff throughout the day.

The High School locker room and auditorium renovations are necessary to facilitate continued use of these rooms at the High School. The locker room renovations will improve access to that area of the building for better use as well as student safety and, improve the shower and toilet facilities. The auditorium renovations include new seating and also renovations to make this facility comply with applicable laws and regulations.

Why now?

The cost of these projects combined is almost \$10 million. Presently the State of New Jersey is offering the Buena Regional School District almost \$6 million toward the completion of these projects. We have to raise \$4 million in order to qualify for the State contribution. Simply put the State of New Jersey will give the Buena Regional School District \$6 for every \$4 we spend to renovate these facilities. A yes vote on December 14 in favor of the Referendum allows the District to obtain a loan to make these improvements. Current interest rates on the money borrowed are favorable, only 3.75%, and bids for construction are also lower than in recent times. While we cannot guarantee the exact interest rate at this time, interest rates have been and continue to remain low. The longer these projects are delayed, the greater the risks that interest rates will start increasing as will the cost of construction. Even more critical is the fact that if we do not complete these projects now, the State of New Jersey may withdraw its share and the District will have to fund these projects in total by itself. This is the best time, therefore, to complete these projects.

When would construction begin?

The smaller projects at the High School and Collings Lakes buildings would be completed during the summer of 2011 and ready for opening in September 2011. The Cleary project would begin in the summer of 2011 and be ready for students in September 2012.

How much will this cost me?

The median value for a home in our two communities is \$200,000. Taxes for a home of this value would increase between \$50 and \$60 per year depending on the interest rate on the money borrowed. The tax increase equals \$0.96 – \$1.15 per week, less than a cup of coffee a week at Wawa. Your taxes would be lower or higher depending on the value of your home.