



# LEAN

## CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"*

February - March 2020

Volume 16, Issue 4



## Olean City School District Seeks Voter Approval on Capital Improvement Project



2020 Capital Project

Zero Tax Increase

Proposition • \$24.8 million  
*"Preserving Our Investment"*



## A Message from the Olean City School District

### Proposed Capital Project – No Tax Increase

Dear Olean Families and Residents:

The Olean City School District is proposing a capital improvement project that will update our aging facilities and support our educational program goals. The Capital Project vote will take place on March 10, 2020, at Olean Intermediate Middle School from 7 am to 9 pm.

This project is part of a long-term facilities plan to address specific needs identified in the State-mandated Building Condition Survey that is conducted every five years. In collaboration with our architect and construction manager, the District reviewed and prioritized these needs into a capital project that will ensure a safe and secure learning environment and promote academic excellence, with no increase to the local tax share. This was an important objective from the start.

Key components of this project include safety and security improvements at Washington West, restoration and preservation

of our historic auditorium at OHS, and an all-weather multi-purpose field at OIMS. The District's diligent financial planning enables us to fully fund these improvements through a combination of State building aid and District reserves. Our current enhanced building aid ratio is 94.6%, which means the state will reimburse us approximately 95 cents on every dollar spent on this project. The remaining 5.4% of the project's cost would come from the District's Capital Reserve Fund, established by the Board of Education in 2015 specifically for capital projects.

This project is an investment in our students and community that will not only improve our facilities and academic programming but will also bring state tax dollars back to the Olean area and create opportunities for local companies to perform the work. We thank you for your consideration and encourage you to vote on March 10.

Olean City School District

## Pre-Ref Capital Project Public Presentation

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Olean HS Auditorium

## Vote

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 | 7:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Olean Intermediate Middle School

## Proposition - Preserving Our Investment - \$24.8 million

### Intermediate Middle School

#### Proposed Work

- Provide Turf Field and Lights
- Provide MS Courtyard Improvements and Play Area Upgrades
- Replace Exterior Flashing
- Re-grout Pool Deck
- Replace Fire Alarm System
- Upgrade Lighting (incl. LED, Emergency, and Strobes)
- Replace Heating, Cooling, Ventilation Systems
- Renovate Elevator Finishes



### High School

#### Proposed Work

- Renovate Auditorium (incl. Seats, Balcony Railing, Flooring)
- Additional Music Room
- Renovate Locker Rooms
- Renovate Misc. Toilet Rooms
- Replace Heating, Cooling, Ventilation Systems
- Replace Speakers
- Provide Additional Strobes and Emergency Lights
- Replace Cafeteria Equipment
- Repave and Provide Storm Drainage
- Parking



### Washington West Elementary

#### Proposed Work

- Entrance Expansion
- Renovate Nurse/Office Suite
- Renovate Classrooms
- Replace Sinks Building-Wide
- Renovate Corridor Finishes
- Update Bell PA/Clock System
- Renovate Cafeteria and Replace Equipment
- Replace Heating, Cooling, Ventilation Systems
- Repair Chimney Masonry Cracks
- Insulate Crawl Space Piping



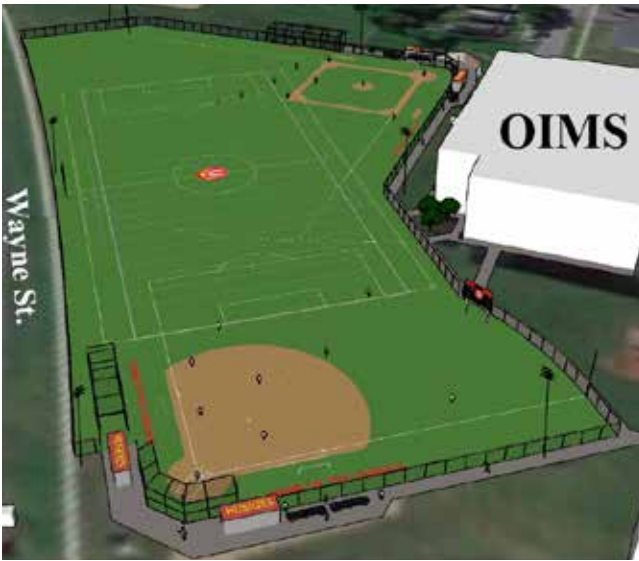
### East View Elementary

#### Proposed Work

- Renovate Nurse's Suite
- Replace PA (Public Address) and Clock Systems
- Replace Outdated Cafeteria Equipment
- Provide Exterior Digital Sign
- Repave Asphalt at Recess Area



**Public Vote March 10, 2020 • 7am-9pm Olean Intermediate MS**



OIMS | Proposed Turf Field With Lights



OHS | Existing Auditorium

## Questions & Answers

### **Q: Why do this project now?**

A: Our District is committed to providing a safe learning environment and well-maintained facilities for students and public use. Just as one's home ages and needs upkeep and repairs to keep it in good shape, so too, do our schools. This entire project can be paid for through a combination of State Building Aid and the District's reserves, with no additional tax impact to district residents. Our enhanced aid ratio is currently 94.6%, which is a historic high for our district. The remaining 5.4% of the project cost would be paid from our diligently maintained Capital Reserve Fund, which is designated specifically for capital projects. As a result, this project can be accomplished with no additional tax impact. Plus, by taking advantage of available state building aid, we would be keeping some of those state tax dollars in our community.

### **Q: Why does the High School Auditorium need updating, and why do we need another music classroom?**

A: The High School Auditorium is the keystone to our community. It is a historical marvel and should be preserved without disrupting the original integrity of this beautiful public space. However, it has been years since the seating, floor, balcony, and projection room have been updated or restored to their original décor. This is the spot where most visitors to our school will spend their time, for events such as graduations, political debates, music and theatrical productions, along with a host of other events. When one enters the auditorium, it takes you to another time and place. We want to maintain that aura while refreshing and refurbishing this space. We hope to bring more arts, entertainment, and educational experiences to our students and community by restoring the auditorium to its past glory and elegance.

As theater and music are some of the District's premier programs, we want the best for our students and community. We have three music programs, but only two classrooms, which restricts the educational process. Presently, one group must use the stage, which is not always available. A new music room will add needed space and reduce daily wear-and-tear to the stage and auditorium.

### **Q: Why a Lighted and Synthetic Surface Field along with Expanded Playing Grounds at the Olean Intermediate Middle School?**

A: When the District reconfigured, fourth and fifth graders were moved to the OIMS. This created a need to provide a mandated recess period without adequate space. We currently have only two fields, which we use nonstop, and our game field inside the track is not used as often to protect it from over-use. As we are landlocked with limited space for recreation, our fields are currently being over-used and rarely have grass on them. This proposed project includes a synthetic playing surface and lights for our present OIMS playground and baseball, softball, soccer, and football fields. A synthetic playing surface will allow students to use the field for physical education classes, other classes during lunch and recess, community groups, and sports teams in all kinds of weather, without damaging the field conditions or tracking mud back into the buildings. Plus, the lights will allow us to extend practices and games into the evening. We will continue to play our varsity football games at Bradner Stadium as it is a Husky tradition.

### **Q: Why does Washington West need updates?**

A: Much of Washington West has not been addressed since the school's inception in 1960 as School #2. We now have the financial ability to update this vintage building. The main entrance will receive a facelift that not only enhances its aesthetics, but also incorporates important safety and security measures. In addition, much of the original interior is in dire need of repairs and updates. Part of the District's reconfiguration plan was to create a two-building Pre-K to Third Grade model. The students and families of Washington West Elementary deserve a building that is more conducive to 21st Century Learning. A clean and beautiful "cafetorium" will be a welcoming place for students to assemble and eat every day. Bright and shining people deserve a bright and shining elementary school.

**Community Meeting March 3, 2020 • 6pm-8pm, Olean HS Auditorium**

**February - March 2020**





# OLEAN CITY SCHOOLS SEEKS VOTER APPROVAL ON CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSITION

**Capital Project Vote • Tuesday, March 10, 2020**  
**7:00 am - 9:00 pm • Olean Intermediate Middle School**

## TO VOTE YOU MUST:

Be a registered voter and resident of the District at least 30 days prior to the vote. Personal registration will be held at the District Clerk's Office, 410 West Sullivan Street, Olean, New York, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. prevailing time.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

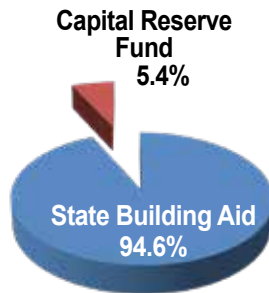
Absentee ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. prevailing time on weekdays. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on or prior to March 10, 2020, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk located at the Administration Offices, 410 West Sullivan Street, Olean, New York 14760, no later than 5:00 p.m. prevailing time on March 10, 2020.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

### Financial Information

Olean City School District is eligible for 94.6% State Building Aid. This is a form of state aid a school district can receive specifically for Capital Improvement Projects.

The Capital Reserve Fund will be used to offset the local cost of work.



### Property Tax Impact

No Tax Impact

**\$0.00**



## Olean Wins with the Souper Bowl!

The Olean community has been generously giving to and benefitting from the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive for over 20 years. This is a city-wide event that provides donations to the Olean Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes, and St. Vincent de Paul. This year, approximately 30 Olean High School students volunteered to assist with this service activity, giving them the chance to help others and interact with local businesses and churches. We are thankful for the assistance of our community partners: City of Olean Employees, Eaton Corporation, First Baptist Church of Olean, First Presbyterian Church of Olean, Intandem, Mt. Zion Christian Assembly, Olean City School District Staff and Students, St. Mary of the Angels, St. John the Evangelist, OAFUCU, and Tops Markets.

## Kindergarten Registration Information

The Olean City School District will be conducting Kindergarten registrations for the 2020-2021 school year on March 16 & March 18, 2020. If you have a child who will be 5 years of age by December 1, 2020, **please complete the form below and return it to your neighborhood elementary school, or call the school at the number listed below.**

SCHOOL	DATES—2020		TIMES	PHONE
East View Elementary	Monday	March 16	9:15 am – 2:15 pm	375-8921
Washington West Elementary	Wednesday	March 18	9:15 am – 2:15 pm	375-8968

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of other school age children and the school attending:


### It's Time to Register for Pre-K

The Olean City School District will be conducting informational sessions to prepare for Universal Pre-Kindergarten registration and enrollment for the 2020-21 school year. If you have a child who will be 4 years of age by December 1, 2020, you are invited to join us from 5:30-6:30 pm on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at East View Elementary, or Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at Washington West Elementary. Please contact Jen Mahar at 375-8039 if you have any questions. Information is also available on the District website under Community Schools.

## Welcome New Staff:



Mrs. Bilotta is the district's new Business Administrator.

Jenny received her CAS in School Business Administration from SUNY Brockport in December 2010; her Masters of Business Administration from St. Bonaventure in 2005; and her NYS Professional School District Business Leader Certification in 2011. Mrs. Bilotta's experience includes: Business Administrator for the Bolivar-Richburg School District from March 2006 to January 2020 and Business Manager at Archbishop Walsh High School from August 2004 through March 2006.

Throughout her career Jenny has been the President and member of the Allegany-Cattaraugus Chapter of School Business Officials, a member of the Grievance Committee of the Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES Health Insurance Board, a member of the New York State Association School Board Officials as well as Utica National Insurance Steering Committee member.

Jenny lives in Cuba with her husband, Joe, and their four children.



**Kathryn Witter** – Teacher Aide



**Caroline Bremner** - newly appointed to the Music teacher position. Ms. Bremner graduated in December 2019 from SUNY Fredonia with a Bachelor in Music Education and Piano Performance Pedagogy. Caroline completed her student teaching at Sherman Central School from September - December 2019.

# CONGRATULATIONS



Board President Frank Steffen, Jr. presented Connor Baer a tenure certificate. Congratulations Connor!



Superintendent Rick Moore, presented Sean Finch a tenure certificate. Congratulations Sean!



Julie Stavish, Keyboard Specialist, is presented a retirement plaque by her supervisor, Jen Mahar. Thank you for your dedicated years of service Julie!





The Olean Teachers' Association would like to recognize Olean Intermediate Middle School teacher Robin Charles, who is celebrating 30 years in education. Mrs. Charles started her teaching career in 1990 teaching grades 4 & 5 for ten years at Cattaraugus Elementary School. She was then hired by the Olean City School District in 2000 as a 4th grade teacher at Washington West Elementary. In 2012, grades 4 & 5 moved to the Olean Intermediate Middle School where Mrs. Charles continues to teach 4th grade ELA, social studies, and science.

Mrs. Charles is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia where she earned both her Bachelor of Science and Master degrees in Education. During her time with Olean, Mrs. Charles has contributed outside of the classroom by serving on the ELA committee, the report card committee, the CIAC (Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Team) committee, and was a Technology Learning Team Leader. Congratulations to Mrs. Charles for her dedication and service to her students and the Olean City School District.



The Olean Educational Support Personnel Association would like to congratulate Julie Scull on her 25 year milestone as a Keyboard Specialist with the Olean City School District.

Julie began her career with the Olean City School District in January 1995 as a secretary in the Special Education/Psychology Department. In 2007 she transferred to the Middle School until 2015 when she began her current position as Secretary to the Athletic Director. In addition to her secretarial duties, Julie is both past and current union president for the Olean Educational Support Personnel Association. She enjoys interacting with the students and parents. She credits her longevity in the district with having a great staff, administration, and Board of Education to work with. Thank you, Julie, for your years of service and dedication to the Olean City School District!

# AND THANK YOU!



## The Olean City School District is hiring substitutes!

Currently, we have a particular need for teacher aide and cafeteria substitutes and are always seeking teacher substitutes. The application for these positions is available on our website. Please download and fill out the Civil Service application found at the following web address: <http://www.oleanschools.org/Page/227>. Please contact the Human Resources Office with any questions at (716) 375-8032. Thanks for your interest and thank you for serving the students in Olean City Schools.



# News From OHS

## Student Success at County Solo Festival

Over 30 OHS band, chorus and orchestra students performed at the CCMTA Solofest at Allegany Limestone Central School recently with exceptional results. Students worked hard to prepare solos, performed, and then were adjudicated by professionals. Valuable feedback was given to students about all aspects of their performance, and a written evaluation and score was presented afterwards. Solos are organized by level of difficulty; with "Level 1" being the easiest, and "Level 6" being the most challenging. On Level 6, vocalists Tanvi Patro earned a perfect "100" score, and Ruth Scordo scored a "99." Savannah Coker earned a "99" on her Level 5 solo. On Levels 2-4, Emma Dwaileebe, Garrett Meerdink, Lily Schena and Caroline Carter earned perfect "28/28" scores, which is the top of the "Outstanding" category. Also in the "Outstanding" category were Pam Reagle, Emma Anastasia, Riti Anumalasetty, Devin Singh, Ishanna Ramlall, Shaela Spring, Josh Terhune, Bryanne Cowles, Lily Todd, Gavin Weseman and Hailee Zalwsky. Congratulations and kudos to all of our hard-working, talented and courageous Solofestival musicians!



## Olean Community and Cultural Center

The Olean High School auditorium stage has held two major theater productions and a presentation by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in the past six months. What will be known as the Olean Community and Cultural Center, thanks to the grant funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the OHS auditorium will become the premier venue for large and medium-sized presentations and performances. This community resource will continue to be developed as a technology-enhanced facility with high-speed internet, outstanding projection systems, and integrated audio and lighting systems - ultimately serving the Olean students and community, including at least 25 community and cultural organizations and the 22 component schools in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties.



## Concert Choir Students Sing at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration

Thirty volunteers from the OHS Concert Choir raised their voices to honor slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the commemoration which took place at the First Presbyterian Church. It was a great opportunity to learn about this important part of history from people who lived through it! The choir presented two relevant songs- one with the words of poet Langston Hughes, and an arrangement of a spiritual from times of slavery. All OHS Chorus students learned "Lift Every Voice and Sing," known as the Black National Anthem, and "We Shall Overcome," both of which were sung at the event. These students gave of their time and came out on a very snowy day to lift the spirits of all who were there. Bravo!!





# News From OIMS

## Spreading Holiday Cheer



Students in Lori Varner's class wanted to help spread holiday cheer this season. With the help of Speech-Language Pathologist Jackie Giardini, they learned the words and sign language for the holiday song, "We wish you a Merry Christmas." On December 20th – all decked out in holiday gear – they visited each of the 4th grade classrooms singing and signing ... and handing out candy canes! After visiting the OIMS main office, Guidance and Attendance offices, they proceeded to the high school where the class continued performing. They entertained the Business Office, Human Resources, Attendance, Guidance, along with the Principal's and Vice-Principal's offices – with everyone receiving candy canes! By special request, they also went into some classrooms at OHS! After one final stop at the CSE office, the students returned to their room at OIMS exhausted ... but happy and proud of themselves for participating in such a wonderful activity.

## Local Acts of Kindness

6th grade students demonstrated acts of kindness during their annual cereal drive over the holidays. The cereal collected was donated to the Olean Food Pantry and Loaves and Fishes Southern Tier Food Pantry for local families in need.



## No One Eats Alone

Spreading a different kind of love on Valentine's Day is the goal for members of the OIMS Student Activities Council (SAC) as they embark on a mission to engage their classmates in some "out-of-the-box" connecting.

Inspired by the movie "Wonder", the 6th & 7th graders on the OIMS student council are staging an event on Friday, February 14th, as part of the "No One Eats Alone" initiative. During lunch periods on the 14th, groups of SAC members along with volunteers from Olean High School and the surrounding area will visit each lunch session and engage in casual conversations with OIMS students.



By doing so, the SAC members hope to give classmates an opportunity to move out of their comfort zones and get to know their peers a little bit more. Posters designed to advertise this special day of connecting can be found throughout the hallways at OIMS, and students will be handing out silicone "No One Eats Alone" bracelets to commemorate the event.

As a lasting monument to the day, Art teacher Ms. Laura Cawley has painted an image of a tree on the wall in the cafeteria corridor which will serve as a place for students to leave their mark in the form of a purple apple with their name on it. The tree will remain to serve other student initiatives into the future.

Under the leadership of SAC Co-Advisors Mrs. Charmaine Dwailebbe and Ms. Sheila Yaffe, the No One Eats Alone event is sure to bring a lasting change in the middle school dynamic at OIMS.

# East View Elementary School



## Hats Off to a Job Well Done

After two years in the works, everyone at East View is celebrating the completion of its capital project! The renovations that took place over the past two summers have made East View safer, more inviting and more energy efficient. Major work highlights include enclosing its open classrooms with walls and doors, moving the main office to obtain a more secure entrance, HVAC and roof repair, as well as many other improvements to the school. With the main office addition, space was also freed up to reinstate full year elementary art and music; truly a win win. Feedback on the capital project has been extremely positive from students, parents and staff. When asked about how the school looks different, third grader Annie Olson commented, “I really like the new classrooms because they are quieter,” and East View Principal Brian Crawford noted, “Great schools are a result of the will of the community, and the successful completion of our project is a testament to that and the result of our board of education, our administration, our construction firms, our teachers, staff and parents working together to build a safe and inviting place for our kids to learn and grow.” We invite the community to continue to follow the East View story on twitter by following @OleanEastView .

Pictured in the photographs from left to right: Anna Tingley, Bensen Gustason, Scarlett Austin and Grayson Caya.



Follow our school on twitter @OleanEastView

Olean City School District Newsletter





# Washington West Elementary School



Washington West Elementary is lucky to have the support and services of our security personnel. Our security officers help to assure our students and staff are safe each and every day. As we look toward the future, we only hope to continue to improve the security and safety of our husky pups by creating a secure vestibule in our main entrance. Through the upcoming capital improvement project, Washington West will likely see the addition of a secure entryway, where all guests and visitors enter and exit from one location. Our main entrance may see a change, but above all else, we will continue to help our husky pups reach new heights - each and every day!



This year, we welcome back full-time art and music in our elementary buildings, and since the addition, our husky pups have been busy working in the 'Imagination Station.' The students have been using recycled materials to construct various creations of their own - a sandy beach, a robot, or a furry friend! The creations have taken shape and will be displayed for all to see in the halls of Washington West. What an imagination, husky pups!





## OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.  
Olean, NY 14760  
[www.oleanschools.org](http://www.oleanschools.org)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Frank Steffen, Jr., President  
Mary Hirsch-Schena, Vice President  
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Janine Fodor  
Paul Hessney  
Ira Katzenstein  
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## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rick T. Moore

## SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Jenny Bilotta

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 73  
Olean, NY 14760

ECRWSS

*Pre-Referendum Capital Project Public Presentation*  
**Tuesday, March 3, 2020 • 6pm Olean HS Auditorium**

## The Sodexo Future Chef Competition



The Sodexo Future Chef competition returns for its second year with the Olean City School District.

For the 2020 competition, the school district will accept recipe entries from students in grades 1 through 5. The idea behind this event is to help educate the kids about making healthy eating choices. This year's theme for the recipe entries asks the chefs to reimagine their favorite school lunch meal.

Judging will be based on the following criteria: originality, kid friendliness, ease of preparation,

healthy attributes, plate presentation, taste and student chef presentation to judges.

Timeline of the event: Evaluate recipe submissions and narrow the number of finalists down; and Culinary Competition "Cook-Off" March 18th.

All finalists will receive prizes including a recipe book of all finalists' recipes, chef coat, apron and hat.

Last year, Washington West 2nd grader Liam Herne was a TOP 40 National Finalist. He went on to win an award at the Chamber's Taste of Olean in July.

The Olean City School District is reaching out to Chamber members to gain more local support, and asking for any donations to put towards this local event and for the participating Olean City School kids, items as small as a gift card to physical prizes, will be awarded to each student, and a larger set of prizes to the top 3 winners.

For more information contact Kevin Fisher, Sodexo General Manager, Olean City School District at 716-375-8007, 814-331-8757 or email [kevin.fisher2@sodexo.com](mailto:kevin.fisher2@sodexo.com).

## Olean City School District Mission/Vision

*The Olean City School District is a student-centered community of excellence in which all members are challenged to learn, achieve, contribute, and innovate.*

### Guiding Principles

**A commitment to fostering:**

A respectful, safe, and welcoming environment

Embracing diversity

Continuous improvement

Academic excellence and lifelong learning

Honesty, integrity, responsibility, and accountability

Student potential and achievement