



# Watervliet CITY SCHOOLS

Investing in  
Learning to  
Inspire Success

## CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE SET FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 9

### Residents to decide on tax-neutral capital project that prioritizes learning spaces, health & safety, infrastructure

*Watervliet City School District residents will vote on a proposed **\$28,600,000** capital project on **Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Voters will also consider a second proposition that would authorize the purchase of property adjacent to the high school's practice field off 16th Street. The 2025 capital project vote will take place at two polling sites: the Watervliet Elementary School and the Watervliet Elks Club (see page 4).*

The \$28.6 million capital project proposal supports district priorities by expanding teaching and learning spaces, strengthening building safety and security, and replacing or updating aging infrastructure. It would be financed through a combination of **97.6% state building aid** and \$1 million from the district's capital reserve fund – resulting in a **tax neutral project with no increase to the local tax levy.**

A second proposition will be presented to authorize the purchase of property adjacent to the high school's practice field off 16th Street.

"The proposed capital project represents our district's commitment to providing a safer, more efficient, and future-ready learning environment for students and staff," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Stevens. "From infrastructure upgrades to modern learning spaces and more secure buildings, this project is an investment in our community's future that comes without additional cost

to city taxpayers, while ensuring our schools are ready to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's learners."

#### Prioritizing learning spaces

Most of the proposed work, **64 percent** of the project, would be allocated for **academics and programs** with new and renovated learning spaces at Watervliet Jr.-Sr. High School and Watervliet Elementary School.

A **two-story addition** proposed for Watervliet Jr.-Sr. High School would create four new classrooms to accommodate increased enrollment and support more opportunities for students to learn, grow, and meet the academic demands of evolving graduation requirements.

A **new modernized school library** would be built on the second floor,

## PROJECT *At a Glance*

Project Cost	Building Aid Ratio	Tax Levy Increase
<b>\$28.6</b> million	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>NO</b> <b>IMPACT</b>

above the main entrance, to create a centralized and student-centered hub for learning, whether it be independent study or small group collaboration. Construction of the new library would also address a long-standing issue by adding a canopy over the school's main entrance to shield students from inclement weather conditions, like rain or snow, while they wait to enter the building. The renovated space would also provide a larger vestibule to better allow for security screening.

– continued on page 2

✓ An architectural rendering of a new library and canopy over the main entrance at the front of Watervliet Jr.-Sr. High School.



## Capital Project 2025, from page 1

Students would benefit from long-awaited renovations to the **Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) classroom** that would elevate culinary and hospitality programs with modern, energy-efficient equipment and appliances, and improvements to the **sensory room** for emotional support to help students focus and learn effectively. Renovations to the **nurse's office** and school-based health center would ensure more efficient delivery of services in a safe, comfortable and private setting for students.

Construction of a **new two-classroom addition** would allow the district to move the early prekindergarten program (EPK) for three-year-old learners from its current off-site location to Watervliet Elementary School – bringing all prekindergarten programs together under one roof for greater efficiency and collaboration. This new space would also provide for future expansion of the prekindergarten program.

The elementary school's main lobby on the 10th Ave. side of the building would be renovated and the nearby office suite would be redesigned to create a central hub where the administration and support services staff can work together more efficiently to better serve students and families. Currently underutilized space on the second-floor area above the lobby would be transformed into a **multi-purpose room** with amenities for project-based, hands-on learning for elementary students.

### Bus garage renovations

Capital improvements would extend to the bus garage where the district proposes to either renovate the existing structure or build a new facility to provide more secure storage of buses and district vehicles. If **proposition 2** (below) is approved, purchase of the site could allow for potential construction of a new garage, pending evaluation.

Significant upgrades to the garage's electrical infrastructure are proposed to provide for charging stations to prepare for the transition to all electric vehicles, as mandated by New York State. Legislation requires that all new school buses purchased after June 2027 be electric, and that entire bus fleets be zero emissions by 2035. Charging stations would also be installed in the parking areas at both schools.

### PROPOSITION 2: LAND PURCHASE

- Residents will decide a referendum that would allow the Watervliet City School District to acquire approximately .37 acres of vacant land known as 1100 16th Street, Watervliet, NY, at a cost of \$49,000.

## Project Scope by Building

### WJSHS

- Two-story building addition with four new classrooms
- Construct and relocate the school library/media center
- Renovate school health office facilities, school-based health clinic
- Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) classroom and sensory room improvements
- Refinish gymnasium floor; renovate basement level locker rooms and athletic offices
- Upgrade bathroom facilities
- Install enhanced security features to main entrance
- Practice field improvements to include addition of adventure obstacle course; resurface track and tennis courts
- Upgrade lighting features
- Improve drainage in parking areas
- Update mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, replace an existing water service line

### WES

- Two-classroom addition that will provide new learning spaces for prekindergarten and potential expansion of early learning programs
- Replace roof on prekindergarten/kindergarten wing
- Renovate the main lobby to create flexible, smaller learning spaces and more centrally located counseling, social work and administrative offices
- Relocate playground near prekindergarten/kindergarten wing to accommodate building addition
- Upgrade library casework, circulation desk and carpeting
- Refinish gymnasium floors
- Replace electrical system equipment that is original to the building, to improve safety, energy efficiency and internet connectivity
- Replace select parking lots and sidewalks to increase capacity and safety
- Provide durable surface at playground, regrade and improve drainage
- Grading, landscaping, lighting upgrades and drainage

### Bus Garage

- Renovate existing garage or build new structure
- Replace existing trench drains
- Provide EV charging to prepare for state mandate that all schools transition fully to electric (zero-emissions) vehicles by 2035
- Create space for mini-bus and utility vehicle parking

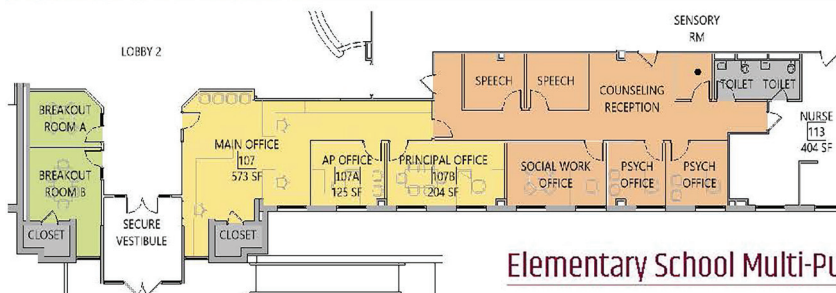
## Plans & Renderings



Pre-K Classroom Addition



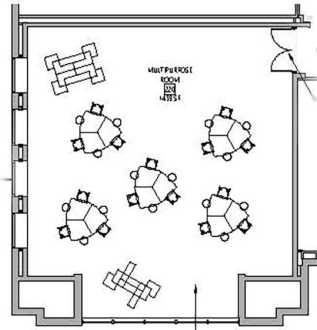
Elementary School Office Suite



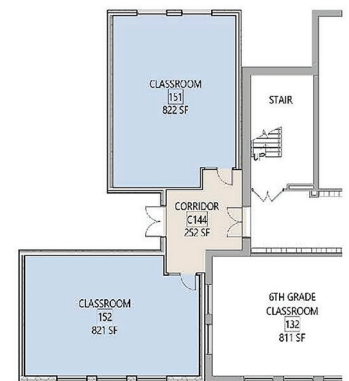
✓ A two-classroom addition would be built off the primary wing (approximately 6,000 square feet) to provide new learning spaces and allow for the potential expansion of early learning programs.

✓ Renovations to Watervliet Elementary School's main lobby would create more flexible space for learning support and small group instruction for students.

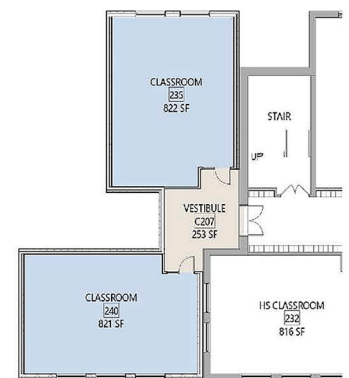
Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room



Jr./Sr. High School Classroom Addition



First Floor



Second Floor

✓ A two-story addition would extend the 2010 wing by approximately 14,000 square feet and create four new classrooms at Watervliet Jr.-Sr. High School.

✓ Long-awaited renovations to the **Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) classroom** would elevate culinary and hospitality programs for students with modern, energy-efficient equipment and appliances.



# Watervliet CITY SCHOOLS



1245 Hillside Drive  
Watervliet, New York 12189

ECRWSS  
NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALBANY, NY  
PERMIT #730

## Board of Education

Mary Beth Whited, *President*  
Brian White, *Vice President*  
Heather Soroka  
Victoria Donnelly  
Kyle Daniels

## Administration

Donald Stevens Jr., Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
Kelly Webster  
*Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction*  
Keith Heid  
*Business Manager*  
Molly McGrath  
*Director of Special Education and Student Support Services*  
Kirsten DeMento  
*Director of Educational Programs and Accountability*  
Editor: Judy Frost

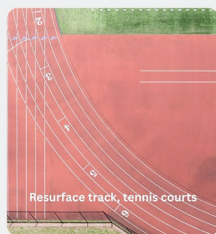
Produced by the Watervliet City School District  
in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES  
Engagement & Development Services.

## Postal Customer

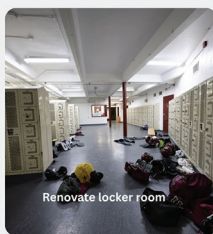
TIME SENSITIVE — SCHOOL ELECTION MATERIAL — PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY

## AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

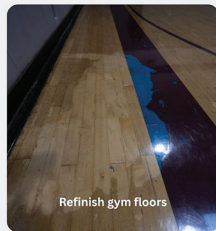
- ✓ **Academic Programming upgrades** to improve learning environments, offices, and student support space.
- ✓ **Health and Safety improvements** to our secure vestibules, HVAC systems, and fire alarm systems.
- ✓ **Infrastructure replacement and repairs** to preserve and extend the lifespan of existing facilities and address building maintenance needs.
- ✓ **Physical Education and Athletics improvements** at our gymnasiums and outdoor athletic facilities for student and community use.
- ✓ **Sitework** at our playgrounds, parking lots, and sidewalks to enhance safety and improve play spaces.



Resurface track, tennis courts



Renovate locker room



Refinish gym floors



Upgrade HVAC



Replace roof - WES primary wing



Relocate playground

### NYS Building Aid

Watervliet CSD would receive



**97.6%**

in state building aid  
toward this project



**NO  
TAX  
IMPACT!**

## Voting information

- ✓ **You are eligible to vote if you** are a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, registered with the Albany County Board of Elections, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote date.
- ✓ **Absentee ballots:** Residents who wish to vote by absentee ballot may pick up an application at the district office. Qualifications for voting by absentee ballot include: will be out of the county on the day of the vote; unable to appear in person due to permanent illness or disability.
- ✓ **Early Voting:** Eligible voters may apply for an early voter ballot for the school budget and board of education election by completing an application, which can be requested from the District Clerk.

## Polling sites for the Tuesday, Dec. 9 vote

For the Capital Project 2025 vote on Tuesday, December 9, eligible voters will cast their ballots at one of the two locations below:

- ✓ **District 1 – Watervliet Elks Lodge, 501 4th Avenue**  
All locations in the district south of the northernmost wall of the Arsenal and the entire area of Mannsville.
  - ✓ **District 2 – Watervliet Elementary School, 2557 10th Avenue**  
All locations in the district north of the northernmost wall of the Arsenal.
- Questions about the polling sites? Call the district office at 518-629-3201.