



THE BEEcon

SPECIAL ISSUE

ACHIEVING OUR FULL POTENTIAL - **TOGETHER!**

January 2016 - Issue 143

www.bville.org



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CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE - February 9

Project to be at minimal cost to taxpayers

On February 9, district residents will be asked to go to the polls to cast their votes on the 2016 Capital Project. The \$32.4 million project will allow the district to continue its goal of maintaining and improving its facilities to provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment. The scope of the project includes:

- ▶ New transportation facility located outside the village – the district would like to build a new bus garage on industrial, non-taxable land located in the Radisson Corporate Park to provide the department with much needed space, to reduce traffic congestion and diesel fumes in the village, and to increase our parking facilities for district events.
- ▶ New kitchen for Baker High School – the kitchen is original to the building and in need of new coolers and new floor and

wall tiles. The configuration of the kitchen is no longer efficient for the amount of meals that must be prepared and served. A new design would create additional space, improve service, allow for more meal options, and ultimately result in cost savings for Food Service.

- ▶ Replace press box and lights at Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium - The 2014 capital project included new ADA accessible bleachers at the stadium, and we had planned on using the old press box. However, this has proved to be impractical and the press box must be replaced to fit the new bleacher design. The stadium lights are 30 years old, not energy efficient, and are inadequate for current extracurricular needs.
- ▶ Replace aging roofs and damaged lockers at several buildings, masonry and window work, and repurposing of cur-

rent bus garage.

Like your home, the district's facilities are under a constant state of maintenance. The district's Facilities Committee has determined that it is the right time, based on the district's needs and the state's financial climate, to address the items mentioned above. The district expects to pay for most of the cost of the project with state aid and capital reserves. Additional information on how the district will pay for the project can be found on page 4.

For more information on the project, please read this newsletter and attend the Public Information Meeting on February 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Durgée Junior High School cafeteria. The vote will be held on February 9 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Baker High School small gym.

February 9, 2016 Vote on Capital Project	December 2017 Plans approved by State Education Department	July 2018 Borrow (bonds)	Fiscal Year 2019-20 Bond payments begin
PROJECT TIMELINE			
December 2016 Plans sent to State Education Department for approval	April 2018 Construction begins	Fall 2018 Project Completed	

Scope of Project

New Transportation Facility: \$24 Million

WHY BUILD A NEW FACILITY?

The district believes it is time to build a new facility for the following reasons:

1. Size and Age of Current Facility

- ▶ Building is 70 years old and expensive to heat
- ▶ Too small and poorly designed to take care of the district's fleet of vehicles (over 150 vehicles)



In the bays where the mechanics work on the buses, space is inadequate.

2. Quality of Life Concerns

- ▶ The district's facility is comparable to having a commercial trucking operation located in the Village of Baldwinsville
- ▶ When the temperature drops below 15 degrees, we must start 100 diesel engines at 5 a.m., causing diesel fumes to drift through the village
- ▶ Four times a day we send 100 vehicles through the village. We estimate we can cut traffic by 40% to 50% if we move our operation out of the village



3. Planning for the Future

- ▶ Expanding our operation - The district will encourage local municipalities, including area school districts, to contract with the district for repair and maintenance of their rolling stock.
- ▶ Increasing district parking - If we move the bus garage off of the district campus, we will have more space for parking facilities for district events and improve the overall look of the main campus.

WHERE WILL WE BUILD A NEW FACILITY?

The district's Facilities Committee looked at several sites on which to build a new transportation center:

1. Site of the former Tri County Mall;
2. Old mall on Smokey Hollow Road;
3. District land north of Durgee Junior High School; and
4. Land behind Anheuser Busch owned by the Empire State Development Corporation.

The Facilities Committee has recommended site #4 as the most logical and cost efficient option for several reasons:

1. **SITE HAS NEVER BEEN SUBJECTED TO PROPERTY TAXES.**
2. Site *is not* in a residential neighborhood.
3. Site has utilities located nearby.
4. Site has multiple points of access and is large enough for our needs.



A conceptual view of the property with a building rendering.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT BUS ROUTES?

We calculate that some routes would be longer in mileage and some would be shorter in mileage, but we do not think there will be a change in the total mileage our buses travel each day.

We estimate that the route times will be shorter because some of our buses will not be traveling through the village anymore, making these routes more efficient.

Scope of Project

Other Project Items

Athletic Facilities: \$600,000

▶ **New press box** - The 2014 capital project included new ADA accessible bleachers at the stadium, and we had planned on using the old press box. However, this has proved to be impractical and the press box must be replaced to fit the new bleacher design.

▶ **Stadium lighting** - The stadium lights are 30 years old and need to be replaced with energy efficient, better quality lights. The district will increase the lighting from four lights to six lights.

Baker Kitchen Remodel: \$1.2 Million

WHY REMODEL THE KITCHEN?

1. Age of Kitchen

▶ The high school kitchen is original to the building, circa 1952. The floor and wall tiles are original and need to be replaced in many spots.

▶ Coolers, like the one in the photo below, are old, too small for the cafeteria's stock, and not energy efficient. One of the coolers leaks into a storage area in the basement. These coolers are not repairable.



2. Space and Efficiency

▶ The kitchen is too small for the amount of meals that are prepared, food that must be stored, and students served each day. Because space is cramped, students are not able to move through the serving lines quickly, wasting time that they need to eat and recharge for the rest of their day. The space also limits the variety of meal options we can offer students.

3. Increase Food Service's Cost Savings

▶ Due to changes in the regulations of the federal school meal program, Food Service has been losing money for several years as less school meals are purchased. At this point Food Service is no longer self-sustaining. Food Service has been using its reserves for the last three years. Going forward, the district would like to see Food Service regain its ability to support its operations and avoid the General Fund subsidizing its operations.

▶ In order for this to happen, we would like to make the Baker kitchen a flagship operation for Food Service by making the cafeteria more welcoming, comfortable and more efficient, with greater food choices to appeal to a larger customer base at the high school. Because Baker left the Federal Nutrition Program in 2014-15, the school is not tied to restrictive regulations regarding what it can serve for breakfasts and lunches. This puts the school in a position to sell more meals and realize greater cost savings, which would aid Food Service in once again becoming self-sustaining.



The design of the serving line in the Camden Central School District is similar to what the district would like for Baker High School.

Other Items: \$6.6 Million

▶ **Replace roofs** - at Elden and VanBuren, the roof over the Baker science wing, and the public library (district owns the library and is responsible for its maintenance).

▶ **Replace damaged lockers** - at Baker and Ray.

Alternative Items:

Market prices can bring good deals for school districts. By using bid alternates, we may be able to do more work within the project budget, including **boilers and air handling equipment** at Durgee, **masonry and window work** at Baker, and replacement of **damaged lockers** at Durgee.

CAPITAL PROJECT
Public Information Meeting
February 4, 2016 - 7 p.m.
Durgee Jr. High Cafeteria

CAPITAL PROJECT **VOTE** - February 9, 2016

6 A.M. to 9 P.M., Baker High School Small Gym

WHAT WILL THE PROJECT COST?

The total cost of the project will be roughly **\$32.4 million dollars**. The breakdown is as follows:

- ▶ Transportation Facility: **\$24 Million**
- ▶ Stadium Lights & Press Box: **\$600,000**
- ▶ Baker Kitchen: **\$1.2 Million**
- ▶ Roofs & Lockers: **\$6.6 Million**
- ▶ Alternative Items: **Unknown**

HOW WILL THE DISTRICT PAY FOR THE PROJECT?

▶ **BONDS** - To pay for the project, the district will bond the money. The district will receive building aid on these bonds for capital projects for up to **88% of the expense**.

▶ **STATE AID** - The 2016 project will have two aidable components:

- ▶ The new bus garage - will be aided over 30 years
- ▶ The balance of work will be aided over 15 years

▶ **CAPITAL RESERVES** - The district will ask voters for permission to use up to **\$3.5 million** of our Capital Reserves to do two things:

- ▶ Reduce the amount to be borrowed; and
- ▶ Pay for items the state will not aid, i.e. the roof of the public library (the district owns the library).

▶ **CHANGE IN DEBT SERVICE** - The proposed \$32.4 million project will create a **\$2.1 million annual debt service obligation** beginning in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This is the same year that a \$2.1 million debt service from a prior capital project ends. The new debt will drop into our debt service schedule replacing the old debt. This minimizes the cost to taxpayers.

▶ **COST TO TAXPAYERS - MINIMAL COST TO TAXPAYERS**

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**February 4, 2016
7:00 PM**

**Durgee Jr. High
Cafeteria**

WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible to vote, you must be:

- 1.) Eighteen years of age or older;
- 2.) A citizen of the United States; and
- 3.) A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots can be obtained by calling the district office at 638-6055, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ballots must be returned by 5:00 p.m., February 9, 2016.

EXIT SURVEY

District residents have the opportunity to participate in an anonymous capital project exit survey after voting on February 9. The survey will provide the district with useful feedback about the project.

BALDWINVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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