Dear Friendship Central School District Community Members,

On March 12, 2020, the Friendship Central School District is bringing a capital improvement project to vote. The need to provide our students with a meaningful and safe educational experience combined with a pressing demand to maintain facility and program standards helped shape the scope of work included in the capital project. Past success in meeting the needs of our children is a direct result of thoughtful and measured improvements. In order to continue a successful path and protect past investments, we have carefully examined the current Building Conditions Survey and the needs of a 21st century learner.

The capital project will cost $2.3 million and, through much preparations, there is already a plan set in place to pay for this project. The result is that this project will require NO ADDITIONAL TAXES to the taxpayers in our District. The project will be discussed in further detail during a community meeting on March 3, 2020, at 6:00PM in the school auditorium. This meeting will include a presentation of the details of the proposed project with a question and answer session to follow.

We encourage all District residents to attend the informational presentation to learn the specifics of this proposed capital project and what it can do for our children and community.

Sincerely,

Judy May
Superintendent of Schools

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**Q&A**

**AREN'T DOLLARS FOR STATE BUILDING AID JUST MY TAX DOLLARS TOO?**

Yes. State Building Aid is money included in the state budget every year to help schools finance major capital projects like this one. Thus, as state taxpayers, we all help fund school construction from Long Island to Buffalo. Your state taxes will not increase or decrease based on the outcome of this bond vote. It’s more a question of whether residents will see any local benefit from their state tax dollars. If the State Building Aid is not spent here locally, it will just go to another district.

**WHY THIS PROJECT AT THIS TIME?**

As President John F. Kennedy once stated, “The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.” This project is first and foremost about repairing essential aspects of the Friendship CSD campus. Some of the repair needs are apparent to anyone who frequents the schools, while others are less visible. Some of the noticeable areas of need are the parking lots and building entrances. Some of the less visible areas are items like the plumbing piping infrastructure. Whether highly visible or less noticeable by the community, each and every aspect of this project has been included as a result of a direct need or considerable collaboration among the school faculty, staff, administration and Board of Education.

**WILL THERE BE A TAX INCREASE?**

There is no anticipated increase in taxes levied as a result of this project. The total project cost is $2.3 million. The district will receive state aid which will cover approximately 98% of the total cost. The local share of the total cost will be appropriated from existing fund balances.

**IF APPROVED, WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BE COMPLETED?**

The work is projected to be completed during the summer of 2021.

**WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?**

Judy May
Superintendent of Schools

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Sincerely,

Judy May
Superintendent of Schools
SITE WORK
- ASPHALT PAVEMENT REPAIRS
- REPLACE DRAINAGE STRUCTURES
- PARKING LOT LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS
- NEW ALUMINUM FLAGPOLE
- SIDEWALK AT SOUTH SIDE PARKING LOT
- BASKETBALL COURT FENCING
- SPORTS FIELD FENCING

MAIN BUILDING
- PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT
- AUDITORIUM FLOORING REPLACEMENT
- AUDITORIUM LED LIGHTING UPGRADES
- SANITARY & DOMESTIC PIPING REPLACEMENT
- REPLACE CLASSROOM VENTILATORS
- CONSTRUCT SECURE VESTIBULE W/ STEPS & RAMP AT MAIN ENTRANCE
- CAFETERIA, HOME EC & GYM OFFICE VINYL FLOORING REPLACEMENT
- WALL HEATER AT VESTIBULE REPLACEMENT

TIMELINE
PUBLIC MEETING: MARCH 3, 2020 6PM IN THE AUDITORIUM
PUBLIC VOTE: MARCH 12, 2020 FROM 12 - 8 PM IN THE MAIN LOBBY
PROJECT REFERENDUM: $2.3 MILLION