

Penfield considers expansion project

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Classrooms, site for buses, grounds in \$30-\$40M plans

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The Penfield Central School District is looking at expanding classrooms to accommodate a larger student base, as well as replacing aging grounds facilities. The district released tentative descriptions of a transportation facility to replace one built in 1961, a new buildings and grounds building and classroom-addition projects at three elementary schools. While the numbers aren't finalized, the full capital improvement project would cost between \$30 and \$40 million, with an estimated 70 percent being covered by state aid, said district Director of Communications Nancy Bradstreet in an email. This is the largest capital project in recent years, she added. The last one closest to this size was a \$73 million capital project, which included the construction of a sports stadium, that was voted through in 2006 after being rejected by residents the previous year.

The newest proposed improvements come after a district increase of 70 students this school year, which puts more stress on already crowded elementary schools that have had to "take back" rooms being used for other purposes, such as computer labs, to make classroom space, said Bradstreet. The district anticipates a 5.5 percent increase in student enrollment per year over the next five years, she said.

The district plans to

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hold an informational meeting for residents and parents at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 in the Penfield High School Commons to further discuss the plans and answer questions. This project will not be a proposition at the time of the school budget, said Bradstreet. A vote date will be set once the project is further through the development process.

Here's what you should know about the tentative capital improvements:

12 new elementary school classrooms

Scribner Road Elementary, Cobbles Elementary and Indian Landing Elementary each need four new classrooms to address overcrowding, according to the PCSD website. Also, each school may look at expanding “core facilities,” which include gymnasiums, cafeterias or parking lots.

Revamping an old transportation garage

Both the Transportation and Building and Grounds departments are located in a facility on Five Mile Line Road. The property is too small for both departments and the building was built in 1961, so the whole parcel needs a facelift.

The district wants to construct a new transportation facility and bus garage on the current site to accommodate the bus fleet, plus additional buses the district plans to purchase.

New buildings and grounds facility

To make room at the Five Mile Line Road property, the district has proposed to build a new buildings and grounds facility on four acres of district-owned property on Atlantic Avenue. The majority of the 39-acre parcel, just down the road from Penfield Town Hall, would remain forest and wetlands. Maintenance staff would relocate to this facility.

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A rendering of one option for a possible classroom addition project at Scribner Road Elementary School in the Penfield Central School District.

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