

# THE OBSERVER

VALLEY STREAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PUBLISHED BY THE VALLEY STREAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

OUR SCHOOLS  
OUR COMMUNITY  
OUR FUTURE

**BOND**

Valley Stream Central High School District

## BOND REFERENDUM ADDRESSES FACILITY NEEDS

### *Vote Set For Tuesday, Dec. 6*

The Valley Stream Central High School District will present a bond referendum for members of the community to vote upon on Tuesday, Dec. 6. This initiative was developed in order to address facilities that are beyond their life expectancies and in need of replacement.

The improvements at Central, North and South high schools, as well as Memorial Junior High School, will positively affect all students in component Districts 13, 24 and 30.

The referendum includes projects identified as being of highest priority.

Science labs are among the major areas that would be addressed at all four school buildings. Roof repairs, bathroom replacements, electrical panel upgrades and masonry repairs throughout the district are also part of the project. Many of these facilities are 60-70 years old and were installed during a time when needs were different than they are today.

Multi-sport turf fields would be installed at Memorial, North and South. The Memorial field would double as Central's home field, meaning that Central athletes would no longer need to use Fireman's Field for sporting events.

"Many of our facilities have not been updated in some time, if at all," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bill Heidenreich. "Yet they are heavily used throughout the year, and there comes a time when improvements beyond basic maintenance are needed. We have reached that point, as our last bond was 20 years ago."

All information about the bond, including a video, fact sheet and presentations, are available on the district's website, [www.vschs.org](http://www.vschs.org). Residents are welcome to attend Board of Education meetings, which are open to the public.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Science labs equipped for 21st-century learning**
- **Multi-sport turf fields**
- **Roof repairs**
- **Bathroom replacements**
- **Electrical upgrades**
- **Masonry repairs**

BY THE NUMBERS

**TOTAL COST OF THE BOND**  
\$41 million

**% FUNDED THROUGH NYS BUILDING AID**  
61%

**COST IMPACT TO AVERAGE HOMEOWNER:**  
District 13 - \$51.67  
District 24 - \$45.04  
District 30 - \$36.64

## FINANCIAL FACTS

When school districts are faced with capital needs that are realistically too large for the operating budget, they ask voters to authorize the sale of tax-free municipal bonds to fund the projects. For our residents, this process is similar to taking out a home improvement loan. For example, if a home required new windows, a new roof and a new furnace totaling \$75,000, many homeowners would opt for taking out a low-interest loan and paying back the costs over time, rather than "busting" their budgets by trying to pay for the projects all at once.

Our school district "home" needs similar work, and it is not feasible to include this

expense in an annual budget. However, selling bonds and paying for the project over time (in this case, 20 years) reduces the annual tax impact to a manageable level while allowing us to realize completion of all of the projects in a short period of time.

**DECEMBER 6, 2016**

**BOND VOTE**

Normal voting times and locations apply to the bond vote.

Please refer to [www.vschs.org](http://www.vschs.org) for specific times in each district.



# FOCUS ON FACILITIES

Sample of Work to Be Completed Through an Approved Bond



Science labs have significantly aged, with outdated equipment and furniture. This is a photo of a lab at Central High School.



In addition to aging equipment, as evidenced in this photo from a lab at North High School, room layouts are no longer consistent with the evolving curriculum requirements and advancements in science.



Most bathrooms were installed over 60 years ago and have rust, peeling paint and aged equipment.



Building facades and curbs are cracked and chipped, which can result in further damage.



Roofs were last replaced in the mid-1990s and have begun to pose problems such as ceiling leaks.



Many existing electrical panels and supporting cabling were installed more than 70 years ago, when less electricity was used.



Multi-sport turf fields would be installed at North, South and Memorial. The district would most likely install synthetic turf fields coated with CoolFill, which are common in neighboring schools.



The tracks at Memorial, North and South would be replaced, as the current ones are worn and beyond their intended years of use.

## CHECKLIST OF SCHOOL BUILDING Improvements

### PROJECT LIST

	Central	Memorial	North	South
Science Lab Upgrades	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roof Repairs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Masonry Repairs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bathroom Replacements	✓	✓	✓	✓
Multi-Sport Turf Field Upgrades	*	✓	✓	✓
Electrical Service Upgrades and Ventilation Repairs	✓	✓	✓	✓

\* Due to space limitations at Central High School, a regulation turf field would not fit. Through the proposed plan, Central High School and Memorial Junior High School would share a field.



#### The New Field at Memorial JHS Would Allow For:

- Multipurpose synthetic turf field (home football field for Central High School, soccer, boys and girls lacrosse, and field hockey)
- 6-lane, 400 meter track
- Long jump, high jump and shot put areas

## A Closer Look at the Athletic Upgrades



#### The Renovated Field at North High School Would Allow For:

- Multipurpose synthetic turf field (used for football and soccer)
- Repair of track surface



#### The Renovated Field at South High School Would Allow For:

- Multipurpose synthetic turf field (used for football, soccer, boys and girls lacrosse, field hockey and baseball)





**What does this proposal include?**

The potential bond referendum involves improvements to aging facilities that are beyond their useful lives. Roof repairs, science lab upgrades, select bathroom updates, electrical panel replacements, and masonry and ventilation repairs would be conducted at all four school buildings. Multi-sport turf fields would be installed at North, South and Memorial.

**How was the scope of projects for the bond determined?**

Each January, the district conducts building tours to assess building conditions and identify areas that are most in need of improvement. A committee comprised of members of the Board of Education, administration, staff and community developed the list of projects that were then prioritized based on input and reports from the district's architects. Improvements of this nature are typically not presented as part of the annual budget, but rather, through bonds.

**What is the total cost?**

The total cost of the bond is \$41 million, which would be partially funded through New York State Building Aid at a rate of 61 percent.

**What is the tax impact?**

The proposal would carry a minimal annual tax increase for the average homeowner. For residents in District 13, the average increase would be \$51.67. For District 24 homeowners, the average increase would be \$45.04. For residents in District 30, the average increase would be \$36.64.

**Why is this being done now?**

While the district has worked hard to maintain its buildings and keep them in good shape, we have reached the point at which greater improvements are needed in order to sustain our facilities. Presenting the potential referendum for a vote in December will allow ample time for the next steps, such as bidding processes and State Education Department approvals, that are required before construction may commence.

**If the project is approved, what is the timeline for completion?**

If community residents approved the bond referendum on Dec. 6, the district is hopeful that a portion of the work would begin during the summer of 2018. It would likely take approximately two years to complete all projects, as the majority of the improvement work can only be done during the summer months.

**Where can I learn more?**

All presentations and other informational materials can be accessed via the district's website, [www.vschs.org](http://www.vschs.org).



# VOTING INFORMATION

## Community Bond Vote Tuesday, December 6, 2016

### *Polling Hours and Locations*

**DISTRICT 13**

*Polls Open 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.*

- Wheeler Avenue School*
- James A. Dever School*
- Howell Road School*
- Willow Road School*



**DISTRICT 24**

*Polls Open 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.*

- South Corona Avenue Firehouse, between Jamaica and Hawthorne Avenues*
- William L. Buck School*
- Brooklyn Avenue School*
- Robert W. Carbonaro School*



**DISTRICT 30**

*Polls Open 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.*

- Clear Stream Avenue School*
- Shaw Avenue School*
- Forest Road School*

### **VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

For a mail-in voter registration form, call the Nassau County Board of Elections at 516-571-2411, pick one up at your local library, or download one from the New York State website at [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov). Elementary School Districts 13, 24 and 30 have continuous voter registration throughout the year at their local elementary schools and district clerks' offices. The last day for voter registration is Tuesday, Nov. 29.

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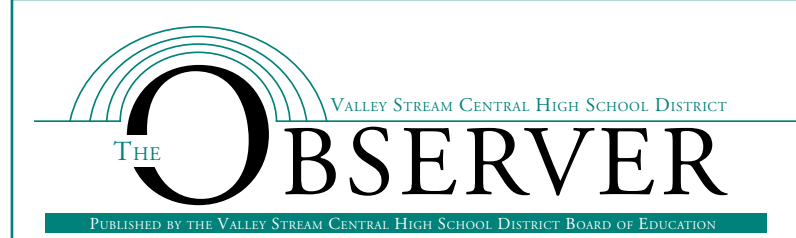
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To contact the Board of Education, please call or email District Clerk Gina Zaccari at [zaccari@vschs.org](mailto:zaccari@vschs.org) or (516)872-5628.



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