



**UNION SPRINGS**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

UNION SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# CAPITAL PROJECT SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

December 2022

## *Dear Union Springs Community Member:*

For students to learn effectively, they must feel both physically and emotionally safe. Over the past few school years, we have added to our school counseling team, promoted positive behaviors, and have worked with students and their families to help support them during some challenging moments in their lives. Further, we have augmented our school security with personnel and partnerships with the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office, and have worked to improve our overall responses to emergency situations with drills, after-action reviews, and feedback from both the community and law enforcement.

As a school district, we take the safety and welfare of our students seriously, and we are constantly seeking ways to keep our school buildings secure so that our students can learn and grow in an environment in which they can become their very best selves. In reviewing our facilities and the tragedies that have befallen schools across the country in recent times, the Board of Education has authorized a vote to be held on **December 6, 2022**, and has proposed a capital project in the amount of **\$2,815,000** to help improve our safety infrastructure as a district.

This proposed project will help us secure our facilities with: door replacement and improvements; upgraded exterior door contacts so we will know if a door is open or propped to the outside, the addition of bollards to building entrances to prevent vehicle intrusion into our glass vestibules; the ability to glaze our at-grade windows with an intrusion resistant film to prevent bad actors from being able to gain access to our facilities through broken windows; and provide us with updated locks to reduce the number of keys needed to secure the facilities in an emergency situation. This work would take place at all schools in our district. Further, this project would install lockdown alarms and notifications systems at the MS/HS, similar to the one already installed at AJ Smith Elementary School. This project will also allow us to create an evacuation pathway between the bus garage and AJ Smith so that should the school need to evacuate because of a fire or emergency situation, our nearly 360 students between the ages of 4 and 10 at the school, would be able to safely exit the building, and not have to walk down public roads to get to an alternate location.

Some might ask, "Why we are voting on this project in December as opposed to when we traditionally vote in May?" The answer is we want to continue to secure our facilities as quickly as possible. With the time it takes to get a capital project approved by voters and the state education department, and then put a project out to bid

and contend with supply chain issues, the sooner we begin this work, the better; waiting six more months until May would put the commencement of the work out that much further. Others may ask, "What is the impact of this project to the local tax levy?" **This proposed project will have a 0% additional impact on the tax levy if approved by voters.** Through the prudent use of our reserves, the Board of Education is proposing the use of \$1,000,000 from our capital reserve to fund this proposed project that, when coupled with state aid, would not create an additional tax burden for our community.

Because we are proposing to spend money from our capital reserve to defray the cost of this safety oriented capital project, it is important that we also ask voters for permission to again save money to offset the cost of future capital projects. Proposition two asks voters to allow the district to create a new capital reserve in the amount of \$1,500,000. The money to fund this reserve would come from state aid, end of year account balances, and other unexpended funds the district receives from time to time. Our MS/HS building is 87 years old this year, and its plumbing is in very difficult shape. In the years ahead, the district will have to undertake significant work to stabilize the plumbing infrastructure to ensure a healthy building for generations to come. If the voters authorize us to save money in a capital reserve, these funds can be used to offset the future expense of this upcoming capital work.

Our responsibility as a district to keep our students safe is something that necessitates the contemplation of a capital project focused on securing our facilities, so that our work can remain on student learning and achievement. We believe that this project will help our district take great strides towards being more secure and enable our school community to update our facilities to be more responsive to the evolving nature of school security considerations.

The polls will be open from **noon to 9pm on December 6, 2022**, in the gym lobby at the Middle School/High School. If you require an absentee ballot, please contact Valerie Castiglia, Board Clerk, at 315-889-4100. Thank you for your continued support of our school district; please vote.

Sincerely,



**Jarett S. Powers, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent



## Scope of the Work by Building

### Middle/High School

- Provide site bollards
- Replace select interior doors
- Provide access control door hardware
- Provide intrusion resistant window film on all at grade windows locations
- Upgrade PA system to include lockdown features

### AJ Elementary School

- Provide site bollards
- Provide building evacuation path to Bus Garage
- Replace select interior doors
- Provide access control door hardware
- Provide intrusion resistant window film on all at grade windows locations

 **Vote**

**TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 6, 2022**

**12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Union Springs High  
School Gymnasium

## Security Systems:

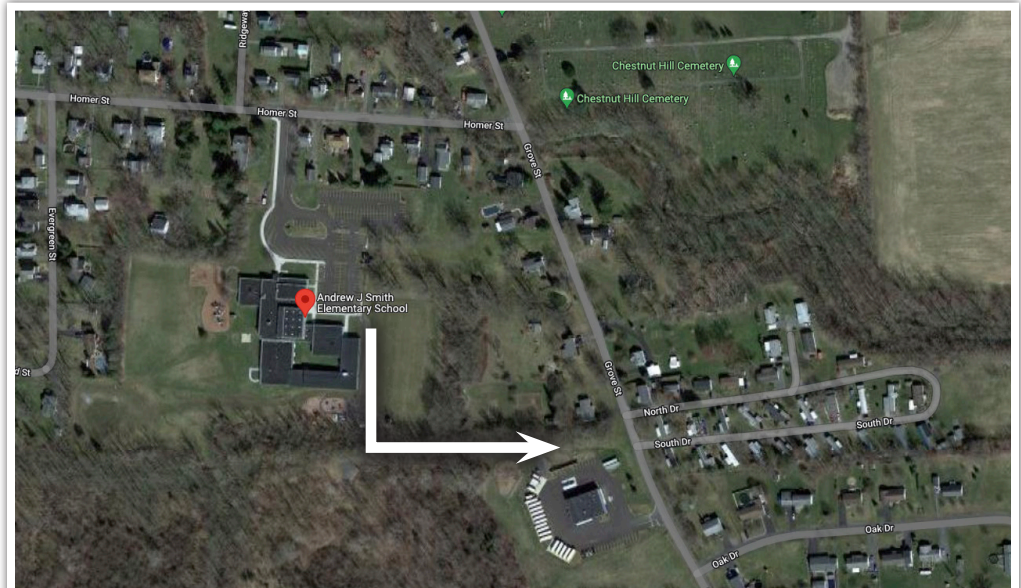


### Lockdown systems

Exterior electric door access control hardware, lockdown button, and alert features.

### Site Deterrents

Bollards and security measures.



### New Evacuation Pathway

This path would connect the district's properties, allow for proper maintenance and snow removal, and ensure that students have a safe way to get from AJ Smith to an alternate site in the event of an emergency.



## PROPOSITION #1

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Shall the Board of Education undertake a capital improvement project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements, additions and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities and the sites thereof, the purchase of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection with the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are used, all to include site, access, parking, demolition, utility, mechanical, plumbing and electrical improvements as well as payment of professional fees and all other necessary costs incidental to such work, and expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$2,815,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for the project by using \$1,000,000 from the Capital Reserve approved by the District's voters in May of 2022 and by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted for the project in the amount of \$1,815,000, subject to available State Aid, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$1,815,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due?

## PROPOSITION #2

### CAPITAL RESERVE

Shall the Board of Education of the Union Springs Central School District be authorized to establish a new ten-year capital reserve pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to be used for renovations and additions to all district facilities, including the purchase of equipment, technology upgrades, classroom equipment and/or school infrastructure equipment, security and safety improvement, site development, athletic fields, plumbing, storm and sanitary sewers, boiler, driveways, and parking lots, such reserve fund to be funded from (i) year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter for the term of the reserve fund, (ii) transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves, (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law?



▲ **Classroom Doors**  
*Refurbishment or complete replacement of classroom doors to enhance security.*

◀ **Example of secure door replacement**



▲ **Window Fortification**

*Intrusion resistant film to at grade windows and doors to hinder intrusion.*



# UNION SPRINGS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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@USCSD\_Wolves



## Check out our new website!

[www.unionspringscsd.org](http://www.unionspringscsd.org)



## CONTACT US:

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# Home of the Wolves!



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Superintendent  
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### Valerie Castiglia

Secretary to the Superintendent  
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Assistant Superintendent  
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## Board of Education

Robin McKay, **Board President**

Daniel Testa, **Vice President**

Jeffrey Culver

Ann Marie Daum

Ross Lawton

Michael Parker

Carol Quill

Barry Schwarting

Erin Tones

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable during school business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) from the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered in person. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. prevailing time on the day of the vote. To request an application/ballot, call District Clerk Valerie Castiglia at **(315) 889-4100** or email [vcastiglia@unionspringscsd.org](mailto:vcastiglia@unionspringscsd.org).

## UNION SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

239 Cayuga Street  
Union Springs, NY 13160

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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

## Rural Route or Boxholder