

# Questions & Answers

## Why is this a good time to be considering a capital project?

Effective July 1, 2006 the State offered a financial incentive to school districts for capital projects in the form of EXCEL Aid. EXCEL Aid is intended to pay a district's local share of building projects so that there is no impact on the local tax levy for construction.

## What does EXCEL stand for and how can it be used?

EXCEL stands for Expanding our Children's Education and Learning. EXCEL Aid can be used for projects where the primary purpose is: physical capacity expansion, energy, accessibility, health and safety, or education technology.

## Will the \$16.5 million in building project proposals increase my taxes?

**No.** State Building Aid reimburses 95% of the construction costs and the remaining 5% local share will be made up of EXCEL Aid and the District's existing Capital Reserve Fund.

## Are there any annual operating costs associated with this project?

**Yes.** Increase in expenses for the proposed additions such as cleaning and utilities are estimated at \$40,200 per year. Using reserve funds, the \$40,200 will be phased into the budget over a three (3) year period or \$13,400 each year.

## How will the annual operating costs impact my school taxes?

A person owning property assessed at \$80,000 that takes advantage of the basic STAR exemption would pay an increase of approximately \$3.00 each year during the three (3) year phase-in.

## Why did the Board of Education present Proposition No. 1 and 2 as separate propositions?

Proposition No. 1 includes items that are considered necessary repairs that would be required at some point in the future. Proposition No. 2 includes additions to the K-12 Building that will improve the District's educational program. By utilizing the EXCEL Aid there will be no local costs for construction. However, anytime you add square footage to a building the annual operating costs will increase. The Board wants the residents to decide if the increased annual operating costs of Proposition No. 2 are worth the instructional and security benefits to be gained.

## How will the District pay for Proposition No. 3?

Proposition No. 3 relates to the bus garage and is not eligible for EXCEL Aid. As such, Proposition No. 3 will require the use of approximately \$33,750 from the District's Capital Reserve in order to cover the local share of construction costs with no impact on taxes. There are no additional operating costs associated with Proposition No. 3.

## Does Proposition No. 1 have to pass in order for Proposition No. 2 to occur?

**Yes.** Proposition No. 2, if approved, is dependent on Proposition No. 1 being approved. Proposition No. 3 is not dependent on the other propositions and will be completed if approved.

*If you have more questions, please plan on attending one of the public meetings listed on the front page of this newsletter.*

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## EXCEL Project and Bus Garage Proposal

On March 29, 2007 district residents are asked to vote on three separate propositions for building and facility improvements. Propositions No. 1 and No. 2 are EXCEL Project proposals for renovations, improvements and additions to the K-12 South Street building. Proposition No. 3 stands alone as a bus garage renovation proposal. EXCEL Aid was authorized by the State for the specific purpose of allowing schools to make improvements to their K-12 facilities with no local costs to taxpayers.

EXCEL Aid can only be used for physical capacity expansion, energy, accessibility, health and safety, and education technology projects. Proposition No. 1 contains necessary renovations and repairs to the building that must be done at some point in time. Proposition No. 2 is a proposal to reconfigure the K-12 building for enhanced security, safety, accessibility, and educational programming. EXCEL money is available from the State to complete these necessary repairs, renovations, and additions with no impact on school taxes. Due to the additional square footage and the corresponding annual operating expense, Proposition No. 2 is being presented separately. Proposition No. 3 is not EXCEL aidable, but is 95% building aidable through the State with the remaining 5% to be funded locally from the district's capital reserve savings fund.

Proposition No. 2 provides an improved secure vestibule entry at each of the three main entrances and relocation of the high school main office, guidance office and special education office to a user-friendly front location in the high school building. This office reconfiguration

would make it more convenient for parents and visitors to access necessary school services. The reconfiguration will take over existing classrooms, thus making it necessary to build additional classrooms at the high school. A state-of-the-art science room addition off the southeast corner of the high school is being proposed. Science education in today's global economy is very important. A modern physical environment for science at the high school would greatly enhance our program that is currently offered in our 34-year old classrooms. The cafeteria expansion would eliminate any overcrowding during lunchtime. The two additional special education classrooms and a large group instruction room at the middle school would alleviate classroom sharing and provide required space due to the planned secure vestibule.

Given the increase in the number of students with disabilities who are required to receive adaptive physical education, it is necessary to provide the appropriate space for this important program. In order to maximize state aid, the current fifth grade classrooms would be converted to an adaptive physical education room and new fifth grade classrooms would be built in front of the elementary gymnasium.

Proposition No. 3 (bus garage proposal) includes: installation of a smoke/fire alarm detection system for enhanced safety, removal of underground fuel tanks and installation of an above-ground fuel station, a paint spray booth installed in an existing bay, and a sanitary line installed to connect to the municipal sewer system.

### Public Meeting Dates

**Thursday, March 15, 2007**  
Victory Town Hall 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, March 20, 2007**  
Sterling Town Hall 7:00 PM

**Monday, March 26, 2007**  
JSHS Auditorium 7:00 PM

### Voter Qualifications

Eligible voters must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- A resident of the School District for thirty (30) days

**Pre-Voter Registration Not Required**

*Absentee ballots available  
at the District Office*

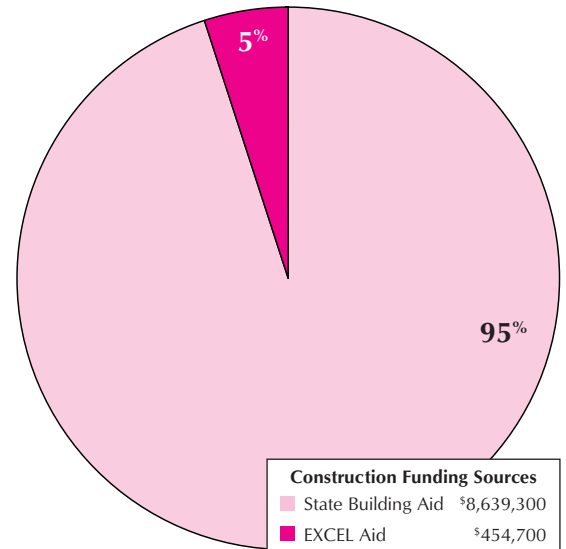
### VOTE

**Thursday, March 29, 2007**  
12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM

**Junior-Senior  
High School Main Foyer  
South Street  
Red Creek, New York**

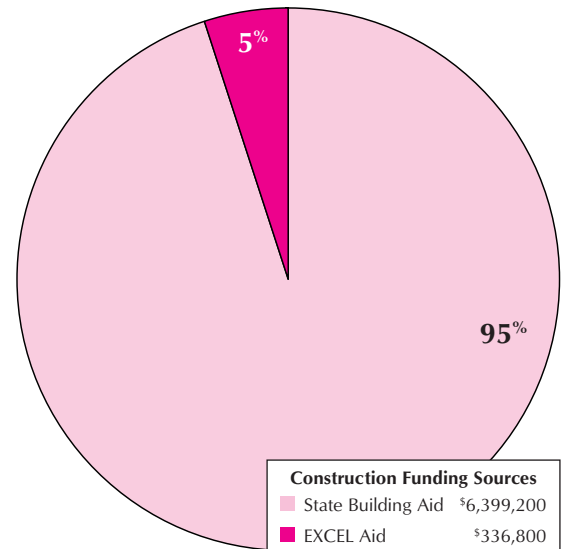
## PROPOSITION NO. 1

<b>High School Building Reconstruction Work</b>	\$3,832,127
Roof replacement and repairs, flooring and carpet replacement, outside fascia replacement, classroom, corridor and gymnasium ceiling replacement, remove demountable partitions and replace with fire-rated corridor walls, casework, replace toilet partitions, provide cafeteria/kitchen fire-rated corridor separation, replace miscellaneous compressors, control valves, exhaust hoods, replace door hardware with handicapped accessible hardware, replace lighting fixtures with energy-efficient fixtures, additional security card readers, etc.	
<b>Elementary/Middle School Reconstruction Work</b>	\$2,399,286
Roof replacement and repairs, asbestos abatement, replace carpet and VCT flooring, remodel elementary cafeteria corridor, replace kitchen make-up air unit, tie middle school boilers into main heating loop, replace original elem. school outdated panel boards and feeder equipment, replace domestic piping in crawl space, upgrade security, HVAC controls and equipment replacement, renovate elem. school bathroom for handicapped accessibility, window treatments, etc.	
<b>Project Common Items</b>	\$740,000
Fiber optic cable, new primary electric feed service, clock systems & security systems upgrade, emergency generator, entrance drive reconfiguration	
<b>Incidentals</b>	\$2,122,587
Cost Escalation, Contingency, Architect, Legal, etc.	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PROPOSITION #1</b>	<b>\$9,094,000</b>



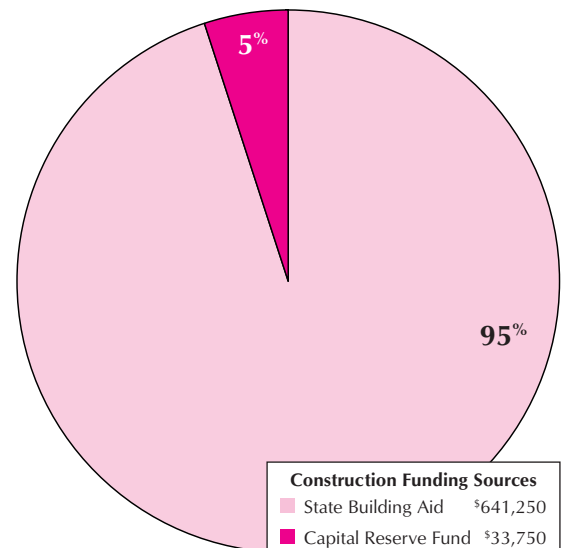
## PROPOSITION NO. 2

<b>High School Building</b>	\$3,402,900
Entrance/Cafeteria expansion & security, Main Office & Guidance Reconfiguration, Science rooms addition	
<b>Elementary/Middle School</b>	\$1,496,000
Special Education & Large Group Instruction rooms, Conversion of 5th grade classrooms to A.P.E. Room, 5th grade classroom relocation	
<b>Project Common Items</b>	\$140,000
New Playground Equipment	
<b>Incidentals</b>	\$1,697,100
Cost Escalation, Contingency, Architect, Legal, etc.	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PROPOSITION #2</b>	<b>\$6,736,000</b>

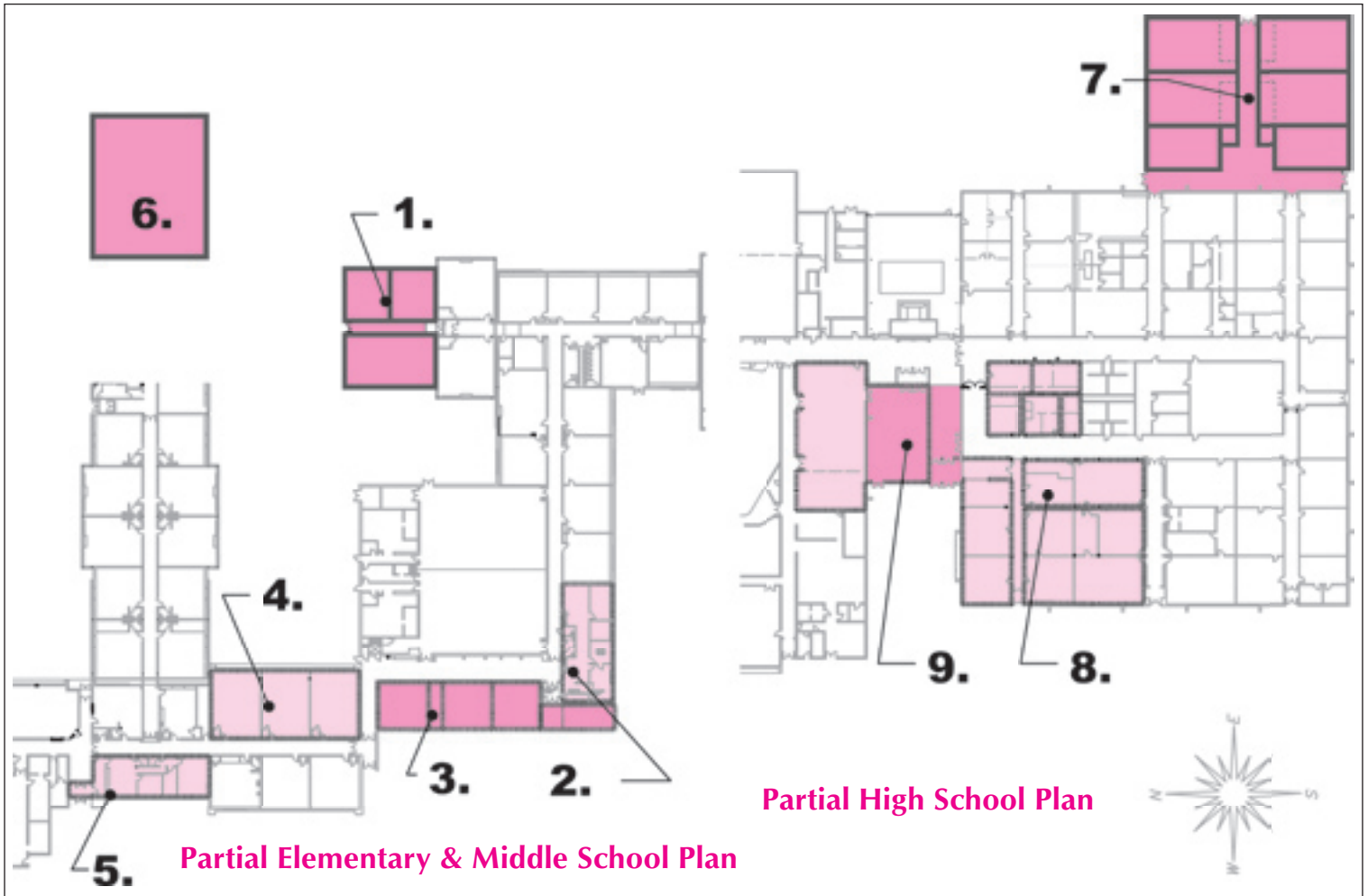


## PROPOSITION NO. 3

<b>Bus Garage</b>	\$505,000
Fire/smoke detection system, remove and replace fuel tanks, sanitary line connection, paint spray booth	
<b>Incidentals</b>	\$170,000
Cost Escalation, Contingency, Architect, Legal, etc.	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PROPOSITION #3</b>	<b>\$675,000</b>



# Explanation of Proposition No. 2



1. Middle School Special Ed. and LGI Classroom Addition
2. Middle School Office / Security Vestibule Alterations
3. 5th Grade Classroom Addition
4. Elementary School Adaptive Phys. Ed. Room
5. Elementary School Office / Security Vestibule Alterations
6. Elementary Playground Equipment
7. High School Science Addition
8. High School Main, CSE, and Guidance Offices Reconfiguration
9. High School Cafeteria / Security Vestibule Expansion

## Estimated Operating Costs

There are no local construction costs for any of the propositions. However, Proposition No. 2 would increase annual operating costs due to building expansion. The estimated annual operating costs for the proposed additional 20,530 square feet including utilities and cleaning are approximately \$40,200.

### Funding the Annual Operating Costs

- Phase in over 3 year period
- Use district reserves
- Reduce the impact on property owner

1st year	.37%	or	\$13,400
2nd year	.37%	or	\$13,400
3rd year	.37%	or	\$13,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.11%</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>\$40,200</b>

### Impact of Annual Operating Costs on Taxes

Estimates are based on district's 3 year phase-in plan and \$40,200 or 1.11% tax levy increase for additional operating costs.

<u>Home Assessment</u>	<u>Assessment after Basic STAR Exemption</u>	<u>Average Annual Cost</u>
\$55,000	\$25,000	\$1.50
\$80,000	\$50,000	\$3.00
\$105,000	\$75,000	\$4.50