



The Fort Ann Cardinal

Special Edition ▲ December 2009

EXCEL CAPITAL PROJECT ▲

Infrastructure and Safety Repairs Needed Project Will Have No Impact on the Tax Levy

EXCEL PROJECT VOTE

Tuesday, Dec. 15
Noon-8 PM
School Gymnasium

On Tuesday, December 15, 2009, the Fort Ann Central School District will ask voters to consider a \$2,140,300 EXCEL Capital Project that will make infrastructure repairs, address safety concerns, and reduce energy consumption. **The project will have no impact on the tax levy if voters also approve the establishment of a capital reserve fund.**

In anticipation of community questions, we have assembled this Q & A to help you make an informed decision.

Why are we considering a building project in the current economic climate?

Three of the school's roofs need replacing, and the warranty has expired. Expensive finishes on the roofs of the old gym, the new gym, and on the older ballasted roof will cost more to replace if they are left as is. Currently, New York State returns 76.1% of our building costs to us in the form of revenue (Building Aid) in future years. NYS Aid is not going to increase – it will likely decrease – and the repairs will still need to be made. We would like to secure the current level of State Aid so local taxpayers will only be responsible for 23.9% of the cost. If State Aid decreases in the future, local taxpayers will bear a higher percentage of the cost.

How much will the local share of the project be?

The local share of the EXCEL Capital Project will be \$511,532. Should voters approve the establishment of a capital reserve, the district will fund the reserve with the existing unallocated fund balance of \$650,000, and use this money to cover the local share. This project is also eligible for one-time state aid called **Expanding Our Children's Education and Learning (EXCEL) Aid** in the amount of \$195,000, which covers the local share of certain types of construction projects. After State Aid, EXCEL Aid, and use of the approved \$650,000 capital reserve fund, **there will be no impact on the tax levy.**

Project Cost		
NYS Aid	76.1%	\$1,628,768
Local Share	23.9%	\$511,532
Total Cost Not to Exceed		\$2,140,300

Funding of Local Share		
Local Share	23.9%	\$511,532
Minus EXCEL Aid		(\$195,000)
Adjusted Local Share		\$316,532*

*\$316,352 will be taken from the capital reserve fund to fully cover the local share so the project will have no impact on the tax levy.

What if State Aid or EXCEL Aid is cancelled or reduced?

If State Aid or EXCEL Aid is cancelled or reduced, the project will be scaled back so as not to incur local cost. The project can also be stopped up to the time bids are awarded (December 2010).

What if voters decide not to approve the EXCEL Project?

The infrastructure repairs and improvements outlined on the back page will still be necessary. If New York State reduces Building Aid, a larger portion of the project will be borne by local taxpayers, and at that time, we may not have the benefit of EXCEL Aid to offset costs.

What is the timeline for this project?

If the project is approved, it will go to the NYS Education Department for review and approval (Fall 2010). We anticipate awarding the bids December 2010, with work starting in the Spring of 2011. It will take one to two years to complete the work. Please see the back page for a detailed outline of the work being proposed.

EXCEL CAPITAL PROJECT



Ballot Items

- Facility Repairs and Improvements
- Establish Capital Reserve Fund

Tues., Dec. 15, 2009
12 Noon to 8 PM
School Gymnasium

FORT ANN

Central School District
 One Catherine Street
 Fort Ann, NY 12827

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 Superintendent of Schools

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What does the EXCEL Capital Project entail?

Roofing reconstruction and replacement of rusting metal cornice and roofing ladders.	\$360,000
Replacement of exterior doors by the back gym. The current canopy, made of plywood over stucco, will be replaced and extended to offer more protection.	\$195,000
Bleachers in both gyms will be replaced with contemporary wood or plastic to reduce risk of injury. Seating capacity will remain the same (200 in small gym, 500 in large gym). Large gym bleachers will be motorized.	\$125,000
Replace windows in the High School to provide a means of egress during an emergency. They will be replaced with energy-efficient windows that restore the historic look of the building.	\$400,000
Creation of bus loop in rear of building to reduce congestion and risk of injury.	\$160,000
Installation of a security system that provides two points of access to the building through a programmable key fob or swipe card. The system will record the identity and time of entry and will be monitored and maintained by the district.	\$16,000
Wiring for a generator , including rewiring several electrical panels and provisions for borrowing or renting a generator to protect the school's technology investments and act as a community shelter in times of emergency.	\$75,000
Relocate dumpster outdoors and fence for safety.	\$15,000
Upgrade temperature control system to monitor and control heating and cooling systems in individual rooms and sections. Settings can be adjusted remotely, which is ideal following storms or with extreme temperatures.	\$135,000
Replace gymnasium lighting and electrical panel with energy-efficient lighting.	\$275,000

Voting Info

When and Where to Vote:
Tues., Dec. 15, 2009
12 Noon to 8 PM
School Gymnasium

Who Can Vote?

All voters must be US citizens, age 18 or older on election day, and residents of the Fort Ann Central School District for 30 days immediately prior to election day. You do not need to be registered or own property to vote in this election.

Can't Get to the Polls?

Absentee ballots are available to voters who qualify. Contact District Clerk Shelley Gregorio at 639-5594 ext. 52049.