



2020 School Security Improvement Project

Why a capital project for security improvements?

When our schools were built, safety and security were looked at differently. School design was focused on accessibility and were open to the public. However, social changes have required school districts to re-think security. The 2020 School Security Improvement project is a proactive approach by the District on security, maximizing the physical and emotional safety of our students.

How were items to be addressed in the capital project identified?

The Williamsville Central School District conducted two independent security reviews spanning from 2018 to the Spring 2019. The first security review was conducted by the Amherst Police Department while the second security review was conducted by a national security expert. The District took recommendations following the two security reviews, identified areas for security renovations, and developed the proposed \$43.2 million capital project in security improvements.

If approved, when will the work begin?

Upon voter approval, the plans will be finalized and submitted to the State Education Department (SED) for review and approval. Once approval is received from the State Education Department, the plans are used to create a bid document that is relied upon by contractors bidding on this project's work. The projected project timeline indicates that initial construction will be begin in April of 2022.

While some of the least disruptive work can be done when school is in session, much of the work identified in this capital project can only be done when school is not in session. Therefore, the capital project will take up to two years to complete, with the estimated project completion scheduled for February of 2024.

What happens if the 2020 School Security Improvement Project is not approved by voters?

The items that have been targeted in this capital project address important security improvement that will not get done if the proposition is not approved by voters. If not addressed, some of the security concerns raised during the two independent security reviews will leave our students, staff, and school at risk.

Also, if the proposition is voted down, the District would give up state aid dollars that are available to school districts for capital improvements, thereby missing an opportunity to channel state tax dollars back into our community.

