

BCSDnews

The Official Newsletter of the Batavia City School District



BCSD Reimagined: Shaping Our Schools For The Future

Dear Batavia Families and Community,

On behalf of our Board of Education, I am both pleased and proud to present to you our 2023 Capital Project: "BCSD Reimagined: Shaping Our Schools For The Future."

This project represents several years of careful planning between the district and our professional partners (our architects and construction management team), and is designed to provide significant capital improvements without expanding the footprint of our district—or in other words, no new additions to our current schools and facilities.

As a district, we have an obligation to maintain and improve our facilities, and as such, this project contains important items such as roof replacements, foundation repairs, parking lot improvements, safety enhancements, and improvements to our athletics and music facilities. We are also providing support to our friends at the Richmond Memorial Library, as the district also owns our historic library.

A hallmark of this plan, however, is returning fifth grade to an elementary school setting—John Kennedy Intermediate School. Grades will then shift accordingly (please be sure to review the plan included in the pages that follow). A second hallmark of the plan is to have Robert Morris become an early childhood center, housing Universal Pre-Kindergarten, Pre-School, and Kindergarten. Over the past several years, New York State has provided significant support to districts such as ours to provide a laser-sharp and intense focus on early childhood education.

**We are pleased to inform you that there will be
NO ADDITIONAL TAX INCREASE as a result of this project.**

Through careful financial planning, the district will be capitalizing on State Building Aid, with the balance of the project supported through capital reserves. Preventive maintenance and regular upkeep of our facilities—while serving our community as financial stewards—is a critical part of my role and our Board of Education.

There are two information sessions scheduled where the project will be reviewed in detail, with time for questions. Dates, times, and locations for these meetings, and more details about the project, are provided in this newsletter.

Inside This Issue

- Project Introduction
- Grade-Level Reconfiguration Plan
- Proposed Project Scope
- Project Financing Plan
- Additional Information Sources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Important Dates

**Please Vote
December 14**

11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.



The Board of Education has authorized a Capital Project Referendum Vote to be held on Thursday, December 14, from 11:00 am - 9:00 pm.

In the meantime, I encourage you to review the project information provided in this issue and contact me with any questions or comments.

Jason A. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

BCSD Reimagined: Shaping Our Schools For The Future

On Thursday, December 14, 2023, Batavia City School District residents will have an opportunity to vote on a proposed capital improvement project that is designed to modernize our instructional spaces, optimize our building grade-level configuration, and address high-priority facilities needs throughout our District. The BCSD Reimagined project will also prepare our school buildings for planned grade-level reconfigurations to maximize equity, opportunity, and educational outcomes for our entire student population.

It was a priority of the Board and our leadership team that this capital improvement project comes at no additional cost to our Batavia community. Through diligent analysis of our student enrollment projections, academic enrichment opportunities, and asset preservation needs, along with dutiful financial planning and optimization of State Building Aid, we are able to propose the BCSD Reimagined project with no annual increase to taxpayers.

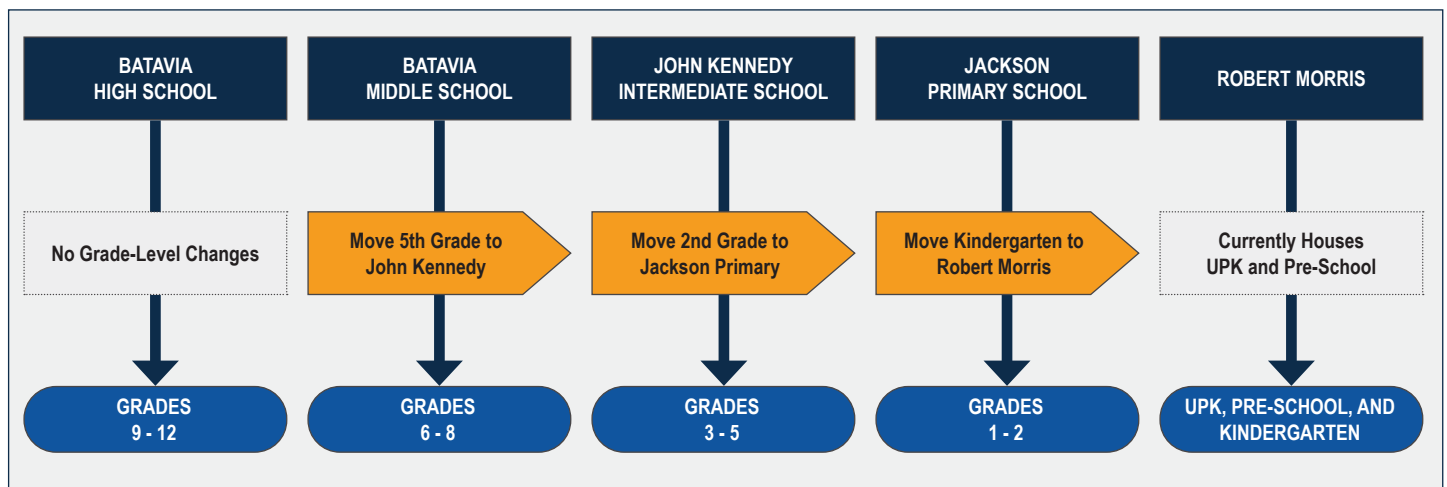


A Closer Look: Grade-Level Reconfiguration Plan

Several studies bring to life the positive impact of bringing students of all demographics together within a school system. This model is known as the Princeton system. The main advantage of combining students in the same grade levels and educating them together in the same school, rather than geographically dividing grade levels across neighborhood schools, is to promote equity, diversity, and parity in the academic resources and enrichment programs that are available to all students, regardless of demographics such as race, economic status, and neighborhood location.

By reconfiguring our grade levels in this manner, we are positioning our 2,200 Batavia City School District students for equitable educational opportunities, successful learning pathways, and positive outcomes. Empirical evidence shows that combined, heterogeneous classroom environments can dramatically improve achievement and decrease inequalities in education.

With the evidence produced by these studies in mind, the BCSD Reimagined project provides the perfect opportunity to bring our students together with everyone in their grade level, creating an environment that will make the advantages of equality a reality for all students throughout our district. The chart below illustrates the new district-wide grade-level configuration plan for Batavia City School District.



Proposed Project Scope

Batavia High School

- Moisture/Structural Repairs Near Gym
- Gym A – Backstop Motors/Hoist and Painting
- Boiler System Replacement
- Fire Alarm System Replacement
- Blue Light Notification System
- Gender Neutral Restrooms (Single Use)
- Auditorium Renovation (Does Not Include Shell, Pit, and Catwalks)
- Roof Replacement
- IT Infrastructure Replacements
- Synthetic Turf JV Baseball and Varsity Softball Fields



Synthetic Turf Fields for JV Baseball & Varsity Softball

Upgrading our JV Baseball and Varsity Softball fields at the High School will extend playability by improving field drainage and reducing maintenance costs over time. The wet spring and fall weather in our region frequently causes our current grass fields to become muddy, slippery, and unsafe for play. Modern synthetic field systems are a safe and cost-effective solution to these issues, allowing our student athletes and physical education programs to play ball in competition and in class. The field systems will also be made "light-ready" for potential future field lighting.



Batavia Middle School

- Original Building Corridor Renovations
- Dumbwaiter Abatement & Convert to MEP Chase
- Gender Neutral Restroom and Staff Restroom (Single Use)
- Auditorium 2nd Floor Glass Safety Railing, Speakers, Catwalk Repairs, Lighting
- Fire Alarm System Replacement
- Blue Light Notification System
- Gym Divider Removal – Replace with Curtain
- Foundation Repairs
- IT Infrastructure Replacement
- Modified Field Backstop
- Parking Lot Improvements
- Patch & Repair Exterior Entry Stairs (Front Sandstone Steps)



Proposed Project Scope

John Kennedy Intermediate School

- Fire Alarm System Replacement
- PA/Clock Replacement
- Blue Light Notification System
- Loading Dock Trench Drain Replacement
- Replace Collapsed Drain Tile Near Loading Dock
- Roof Replacement
- Gym Divider Removal – Replace with Curtain
- IT Infrastructure Replacements
- JV Softball Field Dugouts, Fencing, Sidewalks, Backstops and Equipment



Jackson Primary School

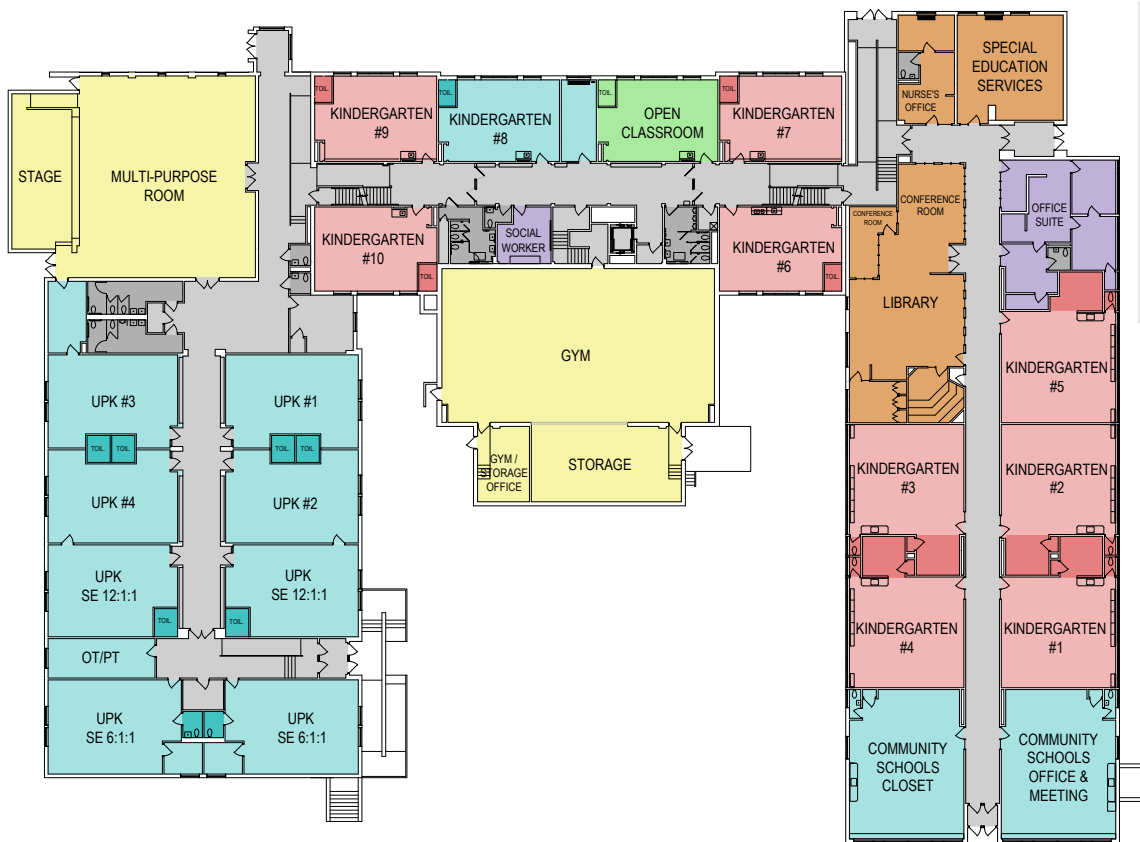
- Building Mounted Lighting (Back/East Bus Loop & Vestibule)
- Foundation Wall Repair (Café Exit Door 12)
- Fire Alarm System Replacement
- Phone System Replacement
- PA/Clock Replacement
- Blue Light Notification System
- IT Infrastructure Replacements
- Replace Failing Retaining Wall
- Pavement Replacement Around Failing Retaining Wall



Proposed Project Scope

Robert Morris

- Kindergarten/UPK – Toilet Rooms
- Kindergarten – New Casework, Sink, and Cubbies
- Meeting / Evaluation Room (Light Renovations)
- OT/PT Room (Light Renovations)
- Resource Rooms
- Teacher Lunch/Work Room w/ Unisex Restroom
- Gym (Floor, Wall, Ceiling and Lighting)
- Masonry Repairs
- Canopy (Strip, Paint, Snow Guards, Bird Repellants)
- Fire Alarm System Replacement
- PA/Clock Replacement
- Blue Light Notification System
- Retaining Wall South End Gym Egress
- Roof Replacement
- Roof Top Unit Replacement
- Flooring Replacement
- IT Infrastructure Replacements
- Age-Appropriate Playground Enhancements



ROBERT MORRIS - FIRST FLOOR PLAN



ROBERT MORRIS, Pre-K & K

- (10) Kindergarten
- (4) Pre-K (District)
- (2) UPK 12:1:1
- (2) UPK 6:1:1
- Associated Resource Rooms and Support Services

RELOCATE WITHIN ROBERT MORRIS:

1. Nutritional Services (2nd Floor)
2. IT Services (Lower Level & 2nd Floor)
3. Psychologists & Records (2nd Floor)
4. Special Education Office (2nd Floor)

RELOCATE ELSEWHERE:

5. Teacher Center (Move to HS)

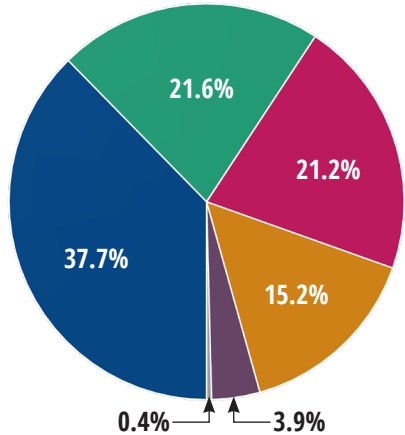
Richmond Memorial Library

- Minor Interior Enhancements
- Exterior Fencing Replacement



Project Financing Plan

Project Budget



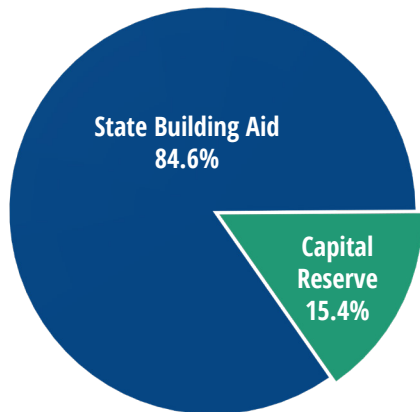
The *BCSD Reimagined* project is an investment in the preservation of our community's assets and enhancement of all of our district's schools and academic programs. The budget established for this project includes all costs to design, renovate, construct, and furnish facilities as necessary.

Batavia High School	\$16,965,918
Batavia Middle School	\$9,740,584
John Kennedy Intermediate School	\$6,852,018
Jackson Primary School	\$1,779,991
Robert Morris	\$9,537,600
Richmond Memorial Library	\$184,375

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

\$45,060,486

Source of Funds



The *BCSD Reimagined* project will be paid for using a combination of available State Building Aid and funds from the District's Capital Reserve, which is designated to be used specifically for capital improvements. As a result of careful planning and budget implementation, this project will have **NO ADDITIONAL TAX INCREASE** for district residents and businesses.

PROJECT REFERENDUM AMOUNT

\$45,060,486

State Building Aid Reimbursement	-	\$38,132,486
Capital Reserve Contribution	-	\$6,928,000

ANNUAL INCREASE TO TAXPAYERS

\$0





Scan the code for
more information

Additional Information Sources

Online: Visit www.bataviacsdsd.org or scan this QR Code with your mobile phone to view information about the proposed capital project on the District website.

In the schools: Two public information meetings will provide an opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the project. Information will also be on display in the school lobby areas.

In your mailbox: This informational newsletter has been mailed to all district households. Additional copies will be available in the schools and posted on the District website.

BCSD Reimagined: Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the District proposing a capital project vote now?

Batavia City School District is committed to exercising care and good judgment in managing the community resources with which we are entrusted. We need to continue to take care of our schools, an important asset the community owns. Just as one's home ages and needs renovations and upkeep to keep it in good shape, so do our schools. The District is addressing its highest-priority facilities issues now, rather than delaying and facing future higher costs and further deterioration. Sizable renovations like those included in this project would have a major impact on the tax rate if included in the annual District budget. A capital project is a fiscally responsible approach because the State reimburses a vast majority of the construction costs that would otherwise be funded by the local taxpayers.

How were the project's components chosen?

Over the past several years, the District administration and Board of Education have been working with consultants to assess current and future capital improvement needs and the means to responsibly achieve them. During this process, critical safety upgrades and building preservation needs were identified and prioritized, as were opportunities to enrich our students through grade-level reconfiguration and educational program enhancements. To evaluate conditions at all facilities, the District utilized its Building Condition Survey (BCS), which is mandated by the State to be conducted every five years, and considered work completed in previous projects. Safety concerns, BCS items, and academic program enhancements received top priority, as did code compliance, mechanical systems, and building envelope (roofs and exterior wall systems) items.

What is the total cost of this proposed project, and how can it have NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT?

The total cost of the project is \$45,060,486. The project will be paid for using a combination of available State Building Aid and funds from the District's Capital Reserve, which is designated to be used specifically for capital improvements. Since the Capital Reserve will cover the local share that is not eligible for State Building Aid reimbursement, there is no resulting additional tax increase for district residents and businesses.

Isn't State Aid just my tax dollars too?

Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature has given all Districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars to enhance their facilities through capital improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to invest those tax dollars in our own

community, working to improve the educational setting for our children, families, district staff, and the public community long into the future.

How will the synthetic turf baseball and softball fields benefit our educational and community-based programs?

The benefits of synthetic turf fields are numerous and relevant to our physical education and athletic programs, youth group sports programs and use by our community. The following key benefits were identified during discussions with the directors and staff involved in these programs:

- Permanent markings and lines, making them ready for play without preparational adjustment.
- Less dependence on weather patterns, allowing for an extended duration of seasonal use. More games and practices can be held on a synthetic turf field in a given season, and it can be used extensively without the concern of muddying from inclement weather or overuse.
- Safe for players because the surface is consistent and not subject to uneven wear, grass length, and weed infestation.
- Available to be used for increased off-season usage by our students and available to be used by community organizations and individuals.
- Better preparation for our students to compete throughout the season, with a playing surface that is on par with other teams in our division.
- When comparing grass fields to synthetic fields, the costs to install and maintain them are approximately the same over a synthetic turf field's lifespan.

Are synthetic turf field materials considered safe?

The safety and well-being of our students are at the forefront of everything we do as a school district. Extensive research has been conducted for decades on the safety of synthetic turf materials by federal and state governments, universities, independent laboratories, and environmental organizations. The science concludes that the use of artificial turf poses no known health risk to children or adults.

When will the work take place?

After design submission, the State Education Department's approval for the first phase of work is expected in late 2024, with construction starting in summer 2025. The project is expected to reach final completion by the end of 2027.



BCSD District Calendar

NOVEMBER 2023

November 22-24: Thanksgiving Recess

November 28: *BCSD Reimagined* Public Information Meeting

DECEMBER 2023

December 7: *BCSD Reimagined* Public Information Meeting

December 14: *BCSD Reimagined* Capital Project Referendum Vote

December 18: Audit Committee Meeting

December 18: Board of Education Meeting

December 22-January 1: Winter Recess

JANUARY 2024

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 22: Board of Education Meeting

January 23-26: January Regents Exams

January 29: Superintendent's Conference Day

Definition of a Qualified Voter:

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age
- A resident within the School District for a period of 30 days proceeding December 14, 2023

**No person shall have the right to register for or vote who would not be qualified to register for or vote in an election in accordance with provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law.*

Absentee Ballot Information:

Qualified voters of the District may contact the district clerk at 585-343-2480 x 1002 to obtain an application for an absentee ballot. The application must be received by the district clerk at least 7 days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Important Dates

Public Information Meetings

There will be two informational meetings held before the vote where you can learn more about the project and ask questions. Choose the date and location that works best for your schedule.



DATE: Tuesday, November 28, 2023
TIME: 4:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Batavia Middle School Auditorium



DATE: Thursday, December 7, 2023
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Batavia High School Auditorium

Capital Project Referendum Vote



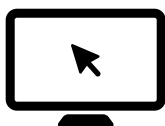
Thursday, December 14, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**For residents living North of Route 5 (Main Street), vote at Robert Morris, 80 Union Street (Multipurpose Room)*

**For residents living South of Route 5 (Main Street), vote at Batavia High School, 260 State Street (High School Library)*

If you need clarification on where to vote, please call the Business Office at 585-343-2480 x 1002.

Connect With BCSD



WWW.BATAVIACSD.ORG



[@BATAVIACSD](https://www.facebook.com/BATAVIACSD)



[@BATAVIACSD](https://twitter.com/BATAVIACSD)