



GOING GREEN!

CORTLAND ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education

Public Hearing – Capital Improvement Project

December 2, 2014 – 7:00 PM *Televised*

Kaufman Center, 1 Valley View Drive, Cortland NY 13045

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Hoose called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. He introduced Mr. Jim Olcott, Vice President Energy with C&S Companies and Ms. Andrea Weare Orlando, Business Development Manager, with C&S Companies who would assist with the presentation and with answering questions.

2. PRESENTATION:

a. Capital Improvement Project - *Going Green! Campaign*

Mr. Hoose provided a PowerPoint overview of the District's *Going Green!* 6.25 million dollar proposal. He stated that the Cortland Enlarged City School District is holding a referendum (vote) on December 16, 2014 for an energy efficiency and renovation project. The project will be funded through state aid, energy grants and reduced energy bills, saving the District over \$295,000 in utility costs annually.

Mr. Hoose emphasized that financially the *Going Green!* project will have a ZERO dollar tax impact to district taxpayers. The project will be 100% financed through state aid, New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA) grants and the long-term return of reduced energy bills.

The project will provide several energy efficiency measures including high efficiency LED lighting throughout district buildings, the integration of advanced controls to allow for increased energy reduction through daylight harvesting and occupancy sensors, replacement of a 450 ton a/c unit with a new unit that will consume 40-50% less energy, and the installation of heat recovery loops will allow for reduced natural gas. In addition, upgrades to building envelopes throughout the District will be undertaken in order to reduce deficiencies that result in energy loss. The high efficiency mechanical upgrades will result in \$295,000 in energy savings and \$20,000 in maintenance savings annually. By undertaking these energy efficiency improvements, we will significantly reduce our carbon footprint. The project is scheduled for completion the Summer 2016. Construction will take place during the summer so that students and staff are not affected or displaced

The numbers summary:

\$295,000 Annual energy cost reduction

\$20,000 Annual maintenance savings

\$400,000 Annual SED funding

(\$490,000) Annual Cost of the program

+\$225,000 Annual Benefit to the District

We will also receive a one-time NYSERDA grant for approximately \$200,000

Mr. Hoose shared that in addition, this project will give teachers a positive and tangible educational opportunity to create real world educational opportunities for our students. Lesson plans can be planned around sustainability using our own lighting system, demonstrating how the new LED lights function, how LED lights reduce energy, how reduced energy creates a more sustainable environment for our community, how students are directly effected and what they can do as individuals to help promote a sustainable environment.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Hoose asked for questions from the audience.

Q Board member Colongeli - Will the light bulbs containing mercury be replaced?

A Mr. Olcott answered yes they will be replaced with LED lights.

Q Mr. John Carroll, Virgil resident – Raised questions regarding financing the project, specifically upgrades will be paid by state aid, NYSERDA grants and energy savings rather than property taxes. Do you bond for the 6.25 million and if so, how is it staged? Can you assure me that no funds will come from the taxpayers—that the funds will not come from existing accounts and there will be no tax increase due to this project?

A Mr. Hoose responded that the district will go out to bid on a 6.25 million dollar bond at an estimated interest rate of 1.9% over a fifteen year period. The state will reimburse 89% upon approval of the project, the remaining 10% will come from monies already set aside in a Capital Project Reserve fund. The district will be making that up in savings.

Q Board member Colongeli – The bond will be 15 years, why are we not paying that off in the first year with the money we are getting from the state and the grant? We will have extra money, how will the savings affect taxes?

A Mr. Hoose referred Mr. Colongeli to *the numbers* summary (see page 1) and explained the funding and savings to the district. Annually the district will receive \$400,000 through SED funding to pay down the bond. The estimated \$200,000 in savings through decreased energy costs and maintenance will go back into the general fund where needed.

Q Mr. Bob Fitch, Cortland resident – Is the goal to replace all of the fixtures in the district with LEDs?

A Mr. Olcott responded yes.

Mr. Fitch commented that this is a wise decision.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hoose explained that because it pays for itself, an energy performance contract does not require a public referendum. The advantage to a public vote is that passage ensures an additional 10% in aid.

Mr. Hoose announced that there will be three available polling locations, Kaufman Center, Cortlandville Town Hall and Virgil Fire Department. The polls will be open on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 from 12 noon until 9 p.m.

Ms. Margaret Baccaro, Clerk