



November 2022

THE 2022 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT

The Wynantskill UFSD is planning its next capital improvement project which will include a full replacement of the school's roof as well as installing HVAC units to regulate temperatures in all of our students' classrooms. Replacement of deteriorating sections of sidewalks and pavement is also included in the project's scope.

Community members will vote on the proposed \$4,977,950 Capital Project on Tuesday, December 13th from 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The \$4,977,950 project would be paid for using \$1,334,728 from the District's 2019 Capital Reserve Fund (saved for this purpose), and by financing the remaining \$ 3,643,222.

This strategic financing will occur at a time when the district finishes paying off debt from a previous capital project.



The new capital project stabilizes the budget as new debt and building aid replace the previous debt and building aid plan.

The district's financial advisors have projected that there will be no change to the district's tax levy due to the new debt and reimbursement of building aid from NY state (about \$0.77 for every \$1.00).

The projected date of completion for this capital project would be in late 2024. The community will have a chance to ask questions about the project at the monthly Board of Education meeting scheduled for November 17th, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Gardner-Dickinson library.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots are available if you are unable to vote in person on December 13th

Step 1: Apply for an absentee ballot

- **Email:** District Clerk
kbarber@wynantskillufsd.org
- **In Person:** District Office, 8 a.m - 4 p.m. weekdays
- **By Phone:** Call the District Clerk at (518) 283-4600 to have one mailed to you

NOTE: Completed applications must be received by the district clerk one week prior to the vote if your ballot will be mailed to you - or the day before the vote if you will be picking up the ballot in person.

Step 2: Return completed absentee ballot (DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Dec 13th)

- Mail it to the District Clerk
- Drop off in person to the District Clerk in the District Office (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
- Drop off in person to the District Clerk at the voting site by 5 p.m. on December 13th

IN-PERSON VOTING

- Tuesday, December 13th
- Polls Open 12 - 9 p.m.
- Gardner-Dickinson Library



NEW READING PROGRAMS!

Gardner-Dickinson was fortunate enough to maximize its Coronavirus Relief and American Rescue Act funding over the last two years to purchase new English Language Arts Programs in all grades, Pre-K - 8th.

The Middle School first implemented the Lucy Calkins, Reading and Writing Units of Study last year. Mrs. Delaney and Mr. Lantz, ELA teachers, continue to work with a literacy specialist from Questar to develop their lesson plans for whole and small-group instruction which is already showing success.

“Students are really enjoying the new books that came with this program. They are becoming better readers and writers by reading high-quality texts and using these as models for their own writing,” said Principal Cornell.

The ELA Program selected for Pre-K-8th grades was the Fountas and Pinnell Classroom. The faculty received initial training over the summer with the first implementation this September.

The staff has begun whole and small group instruction which utilizes interactive read-alouds, reading mini-lessons, and guided reading lessons which allow teachers to differentiate their instruction. Children are reading new beautiful, leveled-texts targeted to meet their reading ability. The latest focus for the faculty has been on the new phonics section of the program. This is an area that our school data is showing as a need for improvement.

“Our latest training was special because all teachers PreK-5th grade, were able to work together for a full day. We really saw the benefits of working at our grade levels and also seeing the curriculum across grade levels with our colleagues. We could compare our grade level expectations, experiences so far this school year, share what teaching strategies are working for us, and support one another as we add another piece to our new program.” said Kaelyn Madelone, a literacy specialist at Gardner-Dickinson.



Message from Superintendent Yodis



What a wonderful start to the school year it has been. While safety continues to be at the forefront of every decision we make, we have been very successful as we transition our daily operations to where we were pre-covid. We have introduced students closer than 6 feet in the classroom with community gatherings on new rugs, reignited small group instruction, and have our lunchroom back. Before and after school activities, field trips, and family events are also underway. Students are happy and growing leaps and bounds socially, emotionally, and academically. New classroom curriculum and materials are being rolled out in all subject areas as we move to align with the new state standards and assessments. I couldn't be more pleased with the hard work and efforts that our faculty and staff have put into starting off this year on a positive note and moving back to what we love; teaching and learning. As we move into November and start counting our blessings, may we recognize all the wonderful people who make up our Wynantskill Community. Thank you all!

Social Emotional Well-Being

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports PBIS

Gardner-Dickinson continues to utilize PBIS practices and beliefs as we strive to demonstrate and reward positive behavior with all students. We explicitly teach our expectations of Being Safe, Respectful, Responsible and Kind.



Bee Drawings - PreK-5th Grades

Students in Grades PreK-5th grades are randomly given bees when they are caught being respectful, responsible, safe, and kind at school. Their earned bees go into a drawing and students are chosen each Friday to earn the special recognition and prize from the reward case.



Royal Bee Dollars

At the middle school, students can earn “Royal Dollars” when a staff member sees them being safe, responsible, and respectful to others or their surroundings. On Fridays, students can cash in their Royal Dollars for a variety of prizes or save them up in hopes of exchanging them for a grand prize! The implementation of this system has been a big hit and motivating students to be more cognizant of their behavior and efforts in their classes.



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Welcome to GD, Nurse Mardon!

Gardner-Dickinson is proud to welcome aboard Katie Mardon as its new school nurse! Nurse Mardon joins the GD team with over 4 years of experience in pediatric care at Albany Medical Center. A graduate of Hudson Valley Professional Nursing Program in 2017, Nurse Mardon is excited to get to know all of the students at Gardner-Dickinson and help out in any way that she can.

Nurse Mardon, who just had her third child, spends her free-time taking care of her children and coming up with fun activities for them all to do.



Kate Rodriguez, a Gardner-Dickinson parent and former teacher of Nurse Mardon, raved about the quality of person GD will be getting as its new nurse.

“Katie Mardon was a former student of mine, and I can ascertain that we just got one of the BEST nurses for our school we could possibly get!”

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