



IF THERE ARE “NO NEW TAXES,” WHY DOES THE BALLOT LANGUAGE SAY VOTERS WOULD AUTHORIZE A TAX LEVY INCREASE?

Voters are being asked to authorize the issuance of bonds (long-term debt) to finance a portion of the cost of the new school.

Bondholders need some assurance that the school district can pay off that debt. The authority to levy taxes is the ultimate security for any municipality, such as the school district.



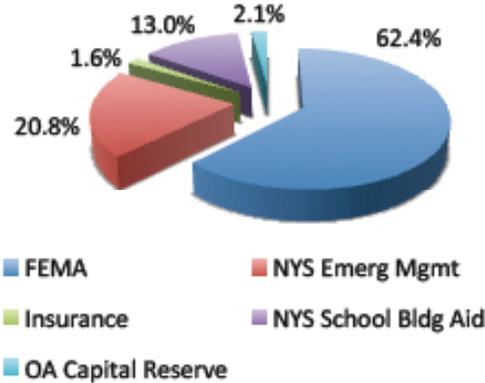
In fact, the bonds will be paid off with state building aid, so no new taxes will be needed.

WILL THIS NEW BUILDING BE “STATE-OF-THE-ART?”

Absolutely. It will be highly energy efficient, including geo-thermal heating and air conditioning, highly efficient insulation, LED lighting, digital control of all climate systems, and outstanding security systems. It will also have state-of-the-art instructional technology in every classroom. It is designed to be light and airy, to take advantage of our beautiful, natural surroundings, and to be easy to maintain.



WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM TO BUILD THE NEW SCHOOL?



The bulk of the funding will come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its state counterpart, the NYS Office of Emergency Management. We will also use proceeds from our flood insurance. The NY State Education Department will provide state building aid. And finally, we will be required to use about \$1.54 million of our capital reserve funds. The whole project will require no new taxes on local property owners.

WHEN, WHERE IS THE VOTE?

Noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday, October 22, 2013, at AES (405 Pennsylvania Avenue, Apalachin) and OFA (1 Sheldon Guile Boulevard, Owego).

OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

- David Barton (president) barton@oacsd.org
- Gene Cvik (vice president) cvik@oacsd.org
- Buffie Arhbal arhbal@oacsd.org
- John Crosby crosby@oacsd.org
- Lee Dunham dunham@oacsd.org
- Linda Frisbie frisbie@oacsd.org
- Becky Goodrich goodrich@oacsd.org
- Dr. Bill Russell (superintendent) russellw@oacsd.org



OWEGO APALACHIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

OES Referendum Questions and Answers



VOTE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2013

Owego Apalachin voters will be asked to authorize borrowing and the expenditure of funds from the district’s capital reserve. Voter support on October 22 would complete the final portion of the financing package necessary to construct the new Owego Elementary School, which was lost to the flood of September 2011.



WHAT ARE WE VOTING FOR?

The Owego Apalachin community is being asked to vote on two propositions: 1) to authorize some long-term indebtedness, which will be paid off in full with state building aid. That borrowing will be accomplished by issuing serial bonds; and 2) to authorize spending money from the district's capital reserve fund, which was established by voters in May 2007.

WILL CONSTRUCTION BEGIN AFTER THE REFERENDUM?

Yes. We need voter approval for the borrowing necessary to secure the last portion of financing. If the referendum passes, we will be ready to award bids to contractors for the first two phases of the project, with the third to follow shortly thereafter. Construction should begin in November.



HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM THIS PROJECT?

- It will be a significant step forward in rebuilding our school district after we lost half of our buildings to the flood.
- Owego will get a beautiful new school, which will be a major attraction for young families looking to move into our community.
- The new school will be a center for community use, with its technology, its gymnasium, its auditorium, its playground, and its athletic facilities. Hundreds of local community groups



use our school facilities every year, and once OES is re-established, community use will be renewed.

- Reconstruction of the district buildings will bring millions of state and federal tax dollars back into the community.
- A construction project of this size will bring jobs and business to local merchants.

WHY ARE WE BUILDING OES WHERE THE OLD ONE FLOODED?

This site keeps our school on our main campus, near the middle school and high school and all our athletic fields. Many children will be able to walk to the new school, as students did before the flood. It keeps our schools right at the heart of the Owego community, where we want them to be. And, after an extensive search, we found no other available site that would be suitable for this project. The new school will be built on fill, several feet above the 500-year flood plain. All of our studies indicate that it should stay high and dry in the event of another flood.



WILL THERE TRULY BE "NO NEW TAXES" WITH THIS PROJECT?

That's correct. Because we have secured funding from five different sources, we'll be able to build the new school with no additional taxes on our community.



WHEN WILL THE NEW SCHOOL BE READY FOR THE KIDS TO COME BACK HOME?

We have a very aggressive construction schedule, and are working to have the new school open in the fall of 2015.

