

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 101



IF THE WALLS OF THE SOLVAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT COULD TALK...

With hundreds of students, staff, and visitors throughout Solvay UFSD each year, our facilities are likely to experience fatigue. Sometimes the needed updates are more extensive than what the annual district budget allocates. A capital improvement project allows for Solvay UFSD to make and plan for these updates, without having to wait for our annual budget cycle. All capital improvement projects are presented to the Solvay community -- and then are put up for a vote, giving the Solvay community the opportunity to provide input on the proposed improvements.

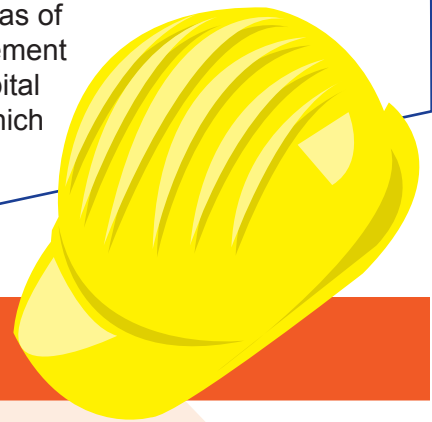
REVIEW

REVIEW DISTRICT FACILITIES

1 Solvay UFSD is required to conduct a building condition survey every five years. This survey is used as a guiding document for evaluating the conditions of district infrastructures and facilities, helping identify any aging, outdated, or inefficient areas. Solvay UFSD also uses the building condition survey results to help evaluate safety concerns and needed technological improvements.

REVIEW DISTRICT FUNDING

2 The majority of the annual budget at Solvay UFSD is devoted to instructional expenses, so we often explore other areas of funding for capital improvement projects. This includes capital reserves and financing, which is funded by local school property taxes.



DEVELOP

CREATE A TIMELINE AND GET FEEDBACK

3 When the scope of necessary work has been determined and funding sources have been identified, Solvay UFSD will review the potential tax impact on the Solvay community. To keep the Solvay community informed, we will hold public meetings and have information available on our website (www.solvayschools.org), and in The Sentinel. The goal is to collect feedback from the Solvay community to help us finalize the scope of the project, which then requires voter approval.

VOTE

Finding Cost Savings

UTILIZE STATE AID: Capital improvement projects may be reimbursed by the state at state-calculated rates. This helps to reduce costs -- and sometimes eliminate costs -- for tax payers. It also allows Solvay UFSD to get the work done at a faster rate.

MAKE STRATEGIC DEBT PAYMENTS: Solvay UFSD can sometimes use bond financing to help reduce or eliminate the local tax impact of a capital improvement project.

STAY WITHIN THE SCOPE: We are unable to spend above the amount approved by Solvay voters. If costs begin to exceed this amount, the scope of the project must be reevaluated and reduced.



FINALIZE AND GET TO WORK

After approval from the State Education Department, Solvay will request bids and award contracts for the project. From here, the Solvay Board of Education will develop a timeline and monitor the progress, working closely with the Solvay UFSD administration.

When all work is complete, Solvay will submit final cost reports to New York State in order to receive the building aid reimbursements that will offset the financing needed to pay for the project.

4 Once the community has approved the project by voting a 50 percent plus one majority, final architectural plans are sent to the New York State Education Department for approval.