

# CAMPUS at THRALL DAM Q&A

## GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. Why is a new building needed?
  - a. The need for a new building arises primarily from the limitations of our current facilities, which are unable to meet the evolving requirements of our school district. Some of the key reasons for constructing a new building include:
    - i. Insufficient space: Our current facilities lack the necessary space to accommodate the growing needs of our students, faculty, and staff. This includes not only classroom space but also areas for extracurricular activities and support services.
    - ii. Limited expansion options: The existing campuses do not provide enough room for adding new structures or incorporating the bus garage and athletic fields on site. A new, larger campus will enable us to bring these facilities together, improving efficiency and accessibility.
    - iii. Structural and mechanical issues: The current buildings suffer from a range of structural and mechanical problems, which not only impact the learning environment but also pose ongoing maintenance and repair challenges. A new building will be designed with modern construction techniques and materials, providing a safer and more durable infrastructure.

Building a new campus will allow the district to create a state-of-the-art learning environment that addresses these challenges and supports the growth and development of our students. It will also ensure that we have the necessary facilities and resources to provide a well-rounded educational experience for years to come.

2. Where will the new building be located?
  - a. The new school campus, which includes the school building, bus garage, and athletic fields, will be situated on a 100-acre site at the northernmost part of Thrall Dam in Lewis, New York. This location has been carefully selected to provide ample space and optimal accessibility for students, staff, and community members.
3. How will the district communicate with the community throughout the project?
  - a. The school district is committed to maintaining open lines of communication with the community throughout the duration of the project. To ensure transparency and keep everyone informed, we will be utilizing various channels such as social media platforms, newsletters, and regular reports during the Board of Education meetings. This multi-faceted approach will allow us to reach a wider audience and provide updates on the project's progress, as well as address any questions or concerns that may arise.
4. What is the expected lifespan of the new building?
  - a. The expected lifespan of the new building will largely depend on the quality of construction, materials used, and the level of care and maintenance it receives over time. With proper care and maintenance, a new school building can have a lifespan exceeding 100 years. However, neglecting necessary upkeep can significantly reduce its longevity by decades. Our intention for the new campus is to ensure it is built using

high-quality materials and construction techniques, with long-term care and maintenance in mind. This approach will enable the building to serve as a lasting educational facility for generations to come. By investing in preventive maintenance and regular upkeep, we can maintain a safe, efficient, and functional learning environment for our students and staff, ensuring the longevity of the building and maximizing the return on investment for our community.

5. How will the new building be maintained?

- a. The maintenance of the new building is a critical aspect of ensuring its longevity and optimizing its use for educational purposes. To this end, we plan to adopt a two-pronged strategy that emphasizes proactive design choices and comprehensive maintenance plans.

Firstly, we are focusing on incorporating design features that can potentially reduce the need for regular maintenance. These choices may range from the selection of durable, long-lasting materials for construction to the incorporation of innovative, low-maintenance technologies in various systems within the building.

Secondly, we are committed to developing short and long-term maintenance plans for the facility. The short-term maintenance plan will cover routine tasks such as cleaning, minor repairs, and the upkeep of systems like heating, cooling, and electrical. The long-term maintenance plan will focus on larger-scale tasks like the replacement of major building systems, updates to comply with new safety or efficiency standards, and other necessary renovations.

Through these methods, we aim to ensure that the new campus is not only a state-of-the-art educational facility when it opens, but also that it remains a vibrant, safe, and effective place for learning for many years to come.

6. Why not just put all of the students in one of the current buildings?

- a. While it's true that both of our current buildings have previously accommodated around 400 students in the later part of the 1900s, it's important to consider that the educational landscape has changed significantly since then. Today, there are numerous new mandates, programs, and opportunities designed to enhance the learning experience for our students, and these require additional space within our facilities. As such, neither of the current campuses can accommodate all of our students, faculty, and staff while also providing the necessary resources and space for these modern educational initiatives. The construction of a new campus will allow us to create a more suitable environment for our students, addressing their needs and fostering their academic growth.

7. Are we getting a pool?

- a. We understand and appreciate the community's interest in having a pool facility, as it was a topic of discussion prior to the merger. We agree that a pool could provide substantial value to our community, offering a venue for swimming lessons, competitive events, and various recreational activities.

However, in the initial scope of our new campus project, we have not included a pool due to financial considerations.

That being said, the possibility of adding a pool to our facilities is not off the table. We are open to exploring this as a separate proposition in the future. If our community strongly supports this addition, and if financial feasibility can be assured, we can certainly consider pursuing this enhancement to our new campus.

In essence, we remain dedicated to providing the best possible facilities for our students and the broader community. We look forward to hearing your views on this matter and will continue our efforts to align our plans with the community's needs and interests.

8. What other efficiencies will be realized once we are in one new building?
  - a. By consolidating our operations into a single new building, the school district will realize several efficiencies that will benefit both the educational environment and the financial health of the district. Some of these efficiencies include:
    - i. Reduced travel expenses: Employees who currently have responsibilities on both campuses will no longer need to travel between sites, thus eliminating the associated costs for mileage and travel time.
    - ii. Streamlined cafeteria operations: A centralized cafeteria in the new building will allow for more efficient food service management, contributing to cost savings and an enhanced dining experience for students.
    - iii. Energy-efficient heating systems: The incorporation of modern heating systems in the new building will result in increased energy efficiency, leading to lower energy costs and a reduced environmental footprint.
    - iv. Decreased bus mileage: With athletic fields located on the new campus, our buses will no longer need to travel off-site for practice, reducing transportation costs and wear and tear on the vehicles.
    - v. Strategic workforce management: As with the previous merger, the district will carefully evaluate the necessity of each position whenever a vacancy occurs. This approach will ensure that our workforce remains optimized, resulting in cost savings and the effective allocation of resources.

These are just a few examples of how the new campus will enhance the overall efficiency of the school district, ultimately benefiting our students, staff, and the community at large.

## EXISTING BUILDINGS

1. What will happen to the current buildings once the new one is completed?
  - a. When the new school building is complete, our plan for the current campuses prioritizes ensuring their continued usefulness and positive contribution to the community.

For the Mountain View Campus, we have been in discussions with Essex County, which has expressed interest in the property. They have shown remarkable patience as we navigate through this extensive process, and we appreciate their continued interest. We

believe the Mountain View Campus could serve as a valuable asset for the county, and we will continue our dialogue to facilitate a beneficial outcome for all parties involved.

The Lake View Campus, on the other hand, holds tremendous potential for a variety of uses. Given the growth in new businesses and the number of commercial renovations happening in the town, we are optimistic that visionaries within our community, or even beyond, can develop a robust plan for the future of this campus. It's a great location that can serve numerous purposes and further contribute to the prosperity of our community.

Our district has no desire to see either campus remain vacant. It is our intent to work diligently to find buyers for each campus who are committed to bringing positive developments to the community. This way, the legacy of these campuses can continue in a new form, benefiting our community for years to come.

2. Will the project involve any demolition of existing buildings?
  - a. At this point in our planning process, the district does not anticipate demolishing either the Mountain View Campus or the Lake View Campus. Both buildings have served our communities for many years, and we believe they still hold significant potential for future use.

Upon a successful sale of either campus, the new owners would have the freedom to renovate the buildings as they see fit. This could potentially include renovations to existing structures or, if they deem it necessary, the demolition of certain parts. However, these decisions would be at the discretion of the new owners, aligning with their plans and visions for the campuses.

We aim to ensure that any transition in ownership is smooth and beneficial to both the district and our local community, preserving the historical value of the buildings while providing the potential for new growth and opportunities.

## TECHNOLOGY

1. How will the project impact the district's technology infrastructure?
  - a. The new campus project will provide a unique opportunity for us to enhance and modernize the district's technology infrastructure. As we plan and design the new building, we are ensuring that state-of-the-art technology will be a crucial component.

This will involve incorporating the latest advancements in educational technology, such as interactive whiteboards, cutting-edge computer labs, high-speed Wi-Fi with broad coverage, and integrated classroom technology to aid teaching and learning. Our aim is to create a technology-rich environment that supports innovative teaching practices and encourages digital literacy among our students.

Moreover, we will be building a robust and secure network infrastructure to support these technologies. This will include both wired and wireless connectivity, capable of handling the increased digital demand of a 21st-century educational facility.

We are also conscious of future needs, and as such, the technology infrastructure will be designed with flexibility and scalability in mind, allowing for upgrades and additions as new technologies emerge. Our ultimate goal is to provide our students with the best possible resources and a truly contemporary learning environment.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

1. Will there be any changes to the district's security measures as a result of the project?
  - a. The safety and security of our students, staff, and visitors is paramount, and a significant part of the new campus project is dedicated to upgrading and enhancing our security measures.

In planning the new facility, we are collaborating with safety experts and utilizing best practices in school security to ensure the design incorporates advanced, effective safety measures. This includes secure entry points with electronic access controls and a visitor management system, which will allow us to monitor and control access to the building more effectively.

Our new building will be equipped with a comprehensive security camera system that covers both indoor and outdoor spaces, providing us with a complete overview of the campus at all times.

Our new campus will significantly enhance the district's safety and security measures, providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students, and peace of mind for our community.