



Capital Project Voting Information

Qualified voters of the Boquet Valley Central School District will be able to vote on the Capital Project on **Thursday, February 15, 2024**. Voting will be held at the **Lake View Campus**, located at 25 Sisco Street, Westport, New York 12993. Polls will be open from **noon to 8 p.m.**

Voting will be based on the following proposition:

Proposition I

SHALL the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Boquet Valley Central School District (the “District”) be hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of (i) the acquisition of up to 100+/- acres of land from the County of Essex (a portion of the Thrall Dam site) and (ii) the construction of a new K-12 public school, new bus garage, new athletic fields, and (iii) the general development of new school grounds including other appurtenant and related improvements, the acquisition and installation in and around such buildings, facilities and improvements of original furnishings, equipment, machinery, and apparatus, and other services incidental thereto (the “Capital Project”); all at a total estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$65,875,025, with such cost being raised by the expenditure of approximately \$5,130,901 from the following respective funds and in the respective amounts: (i) \$902,113 from the District’s existing “Westport Capital Improvement Reserve” fund (said fund being established pursuant to a proposition approved by the qualified voters of the District on February 7, 2017), and (ii) \$4,228,788 from the District’s existing “Elizabethtown-Lewis Capital Improvement Reserve” fund (said fund being established pursuant to a proposition approved by the qualified voters of the District on May 20, 2014), and, with the balance thereof, not to exceed \$60,744,124, being raised by a tax upon the taxable property of said District to be levied and collected in annual installments in such amounts and in such years as may be determined by the Board as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law, with such tax to be partially offset by State aid available therefore, and in anticipation of such tax, by obligations of said District as may be necessary.

Applications for absentee ballots for voting on the above-referenced proposition may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk, 7530 Court Street PO Box 158 Elizabethtown, NY 12932.

For absentee ballot information, please go to page 4.

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Campus at Thrall Dam Q&A

1. Why is a new building needed?

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?

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 new building be maintained?

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. 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.

4. What other efficiencies will be realized once we are in one new building?

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:

- Reduced Travel Expenses
- Streamlined cafeteria operations
- Energy-efficient heating systems
- Decreased bus mileage
- Strategic workforce management

5. Why not put all of the students into a current building?

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.

6. What will happen to the current buildings once the new one is completed?

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.

7. How will the project impact the district's technology infrastructure?

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.

8. Will there be changes to the district's security measures from the project?

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.

Absentee Ballot Information

Applications for absentee ballots for voting on Proposition I may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk, 7530 Court Street PO Box 158 Elizabethtown, NY 12932. Any such application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the date of the vote on the above-referenced proposition, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before such vote, if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the office of the District Clerk on each of the five (5) days prior to the day of the election except Sunday.

Absentee ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk not later than 5 p.m. on February 15, 2024.



Scan here to access the
Absentee Ballot Application or
visit [www.boquetvalleycsd.org/
capital-project-updates/](http://www.boquetvalleycsd.org/capital-project-updates/)

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

If you have questions or want more details, please email facilityquestions@boquetvalleycsd.org.

Do you want to meet with the superintendent to discuss your concerns or do you want the superintendent to attend a meeting of your organization? Email Jatwell@boquetvalleycsd.org to make the arrangements.



Boquet Valley Central School District
7530 Court Street PO Box 158
Elizabethtown, NY, 12932

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