

FOCUS on LAKELAND November 2013



Safety, Security and Health Bond Vote November 19

On November 19, 2013, the Lakeland Central School District community will be asked to consider an approximate \$14.5 million Safety, Security and Health Bond proposition that would include the addition of a wide range of safety and security items throughout the district's schools.

During the past year, the Lakeland Central School District has been reviewing the safety and security of all buildings. Following the tragic events in Connecticut last year, district staff began meetings with members of area police departments, the district's architects, and our insurance provider, to review the safety and security throughout the district.

Following meetings with these groups, the Board of Education's Construction Committee and administration met to develop a plan with several primary goals, including:

- Increasing site security
- Securing the building perimeter
- Securing the interior during incidents
- Enhancing communications districtwide
- Addressing health and safety issues

Specific recommendations in the proposed bond range from new door locks throughout the district to improved communications inside and between buildings.

The district is seeking to enhance site security through the replacement of older, analog cameras with new digital cameras and additional cameras in the areas where we are currently lacking.

As part of our effort to secure the building perimeters, the proposal recommends installation of double entrance vestibules in all buildings while also adding more sophisticated access control systems.

The bond proposal will include the addition of swipe card readers at building entry points. The cards can be programmed for specific uses and times. The bond will also provide visitor entry hardware and procedures including the ability to complete background checks when necessary.

Securing the interior of school buildings during incidents or conducting lock downs will be greatly enhanced by replacing doors where necessary and replacing all door hardware so that teachers can instantly lock doors from the inside.

With our current door locking system, teachers must either keep doors in the lock position at all times or prop them open so students can come and go easily without disturbances.



The bond will add additional security in the entrances of all our buildings including enhanced video entry, swipe card access and construction of a two-door entry with a locked vestibule.

The bond would add new lock sets on the doors permitting teachers to lock their doors from inside the classroom. The proposed new locking system will also speed up the process of locking down, and will open up and strengthen the educational environment within the building. As part of the proposed bond, we will have the ability to isolate areas within the building to restrict access to other areas of a building when outside groups need access to a specific area of a building such as a gym or auditorium.

Communications will be enhanced by totally upgrading and integrating our phone and PA systems. The existing system is often unreliable and is in need of repair. It does not permit quick and easy access between and within district school buildings. Additionally, our public address systems are outdated and in need of repair or replacement.

The bond would add an access path between Benjamin Franklin Elementary School and Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School for emergency access or use in evacuations. At Walter Panas High School, we will create a walkway leading down to the athletic fields. Currently, pedestrian foot traffic must walk on the same roadway as vehicles. We will also install additional lighting on that roadway to improve safety.

Following Hurricane Sandy, we now recognize the need to have emergency generators at all of the schools that do not currently have one - Lakeland HS, Benjamin Franklin ES, George Washington ES, Thomas Jefferson ES, Lincoln-Titus ES, Van Cortlandville ES and the District Administration Building. We will address additional health and safety needs throughout the district including new windows at Benjamin Franklin ES, a connecting corridor at Van Cortlandville Elementary School, air conditioning of the auditorium and library at Lakeland High School and the cafetorium at Lakeland Copper Beech MS.

PROPOSED SECURITY AND SAFETY PROJECT SUMMARY

Benjamin Franklin ES (\$2,405,420)

- Create two-door entry with locked vestibule
- Install and upgrade phone and public address system using digital technology
- Install classroom door intruder function locksets
- Upgrade and add video cameras (interior and exterior)
- Install lockdown exit devices
- Add visitor access control system hardware and software
- Add exterior lighting and additional fencing
- Add lockable corridor doors
- Replace low cafeteria/All Purpose Room privacy glazing
- Replace existing windows including caulking abatement
- Install emergency generator

George Washington ES (\$830,790)

- Create two-door entry with locked vestibule
- Install and upgrade phone and public address system using digital technology
- Install classroom door intruder function locksets
- Upgrade and add video cameras (interior and exterior)
- Add visitor access control system hardware and software
- Add exterior lighting and additional fencing
- Add lockable corridor doors
- Replace low cafeteria/All Purpose Room privacy glazing
- Install emergency generator

Lincoln-Titus ES (\$830,790)

- Create two-door entry with locked vestibule
- Install and upgrade phone and public address system using digital technology
- Upgrade and add video cameras (interior and exterior)
- Install classroom door intruder function locksets
- Add visitor access control system hardware and software
- Add exterior lighting and fencing
- Add lockable corridor doors
- Replace low cafeteria/All Purpose Room privacy glazing
- Install emergency generator

Thomas Jefferson ES (\$866,145)

- Create two-door entry with locked vestibule
- Install and upgrade phone and public address system using digital technology
- Install classroom door intruder function locksets
- Upgrade and add video cameras (interior and exterior)
- Add visitor access control system hardware and software
- Add exterior lighting
- Install fencing at South Field entrance and front parking area
- Replace low cafeteria/All Purpose Room privacy glazing
- Install emergency generator

Van Cortlandtville ES (\$2,811,143)

- Create two-door entry with locked vestibule
- Install and upgrade phone and public address system using digital technology
- Install classroom door intruder function locksets
- Upgrade and add video cameras (interior and exterior)
- Add visitor access control system hardware and software
- Add exterior lighting
- Construct connection breezeway to provide secure, covered passage between front and back of the building

- Add courtyard lighting
- Install fencing at exit near Nurse's office in rear of building
- Pave courtyard parking area
- Install emergency generator

Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School (\$1,881,651)

- Create two-door entry with locked vestibule
- Install and upgrade phone and public address system using digital technology
- Install classroom door intruder function locksets
- Upgrade and add video cameras (interior and exterior)
- Add visitor access control system hardware and software
- Construct emergency access road between MS and Benjamin Franklin ES
- Add exterior lighting
- Relocate Resource Officer office
- Add key control at elevator in 8th grade wing
- Air condition Cafetorium for large group events

Walter Panas HS (\$1,601,882)

- Create two-door entry with locked vestibule
- Install and upgrade phone and public address system using digital technology
- Install classroom door intruder function locksets
- Upgrade and add video cameras (interior and exterior)
- Add visitor access control system hardware and software
- Create handicapped accessible ramp
- Add exterior lighting
- Construct walkway and stairs to lower field
- Add lighting on path and road to lower fields
- Install fiber optic connection to lower fields
- Replace some non-conforming door hardware
- Replace cafeteria doors
- Add corridor lockable doors

Lakeland HS (\$2,724,515)

- Create two-door entry with locked vestibule
- Install and upgrade phone and public address system using digital technology
- Install classroom door intruder function locksets
- Upgrade and add video cameras (interior and exterior)
- Add interior lighting
- Replace exterior, auditorium and cafeteria doors
- Add corridor lockable doors
- Install lockdown exit devices
- Expand IT infrastructure
- Air condition auditorium, computer room and library

Administration Building (\$543,770)

- Install and upgrade phone system using digital technology
- Add exterior Lighting
- Reglaze exterior doors
- Install emergency generator
- Expand IT Infrastructure
- Upgrade video camera system

For additional information, including a detailed list of the proposed projects, go to the District's web page, www.lakelandschools.org

BOND PROPOSITION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Why are you proposing a bond now?

A: The question of making our buildings safer has been under discussion by district officials for a long time. It is a question parents frequently ask district officials. The tragedy at Sandy Hook last year as well as subsequent events throughout the country prompted the district to move forward with a review of its safety and security procedures. We conducted safety audits of our buildings using the resources provided to us by the Yorktown Police Department and the Westchester County Police Department. Additionally, the district's own insurance providers added their input along with the district's architectural firm.

The Board of Education's Construction Committee also reviewed this information during the past six months as the bond proposal was developed.

Another factor is that New York State is currently offering the district 59.7% state aid which will reduce the direct cost of the project to the Lakeland community.

Q: What buildings are included in this bond?

A: The bond includes work at all eight school buildings and the administration building. A summary of the work being done can be found on page two of this newsletter. The district, working with our architects, determined a priority list of items to be completed in the district's buildings.

A detailed list building-by-building is available on the district's web site or by contacting the District Office at (914) 245-1700.

Q: Did the district take any action regarding safety following the tragic events of last December in Connecticut?

A: A number of immediate steps were taken in Lakeland to enhance the existing safety measures. The district had previously installed a video buzzer entry system at all building entrances. Entry to all buildings was through one central location with all exterior doors locked during the school day. Buildings now hold several additional safety-related drills throughout the year. Safety plans have also been updated districtwide. Internal protocols for safety were tightened and enhanced. Additional security protocols were instituted involving internal and external security measures that we cannot share publicly.



The bond would replace older public address systems and upgrade the district's phone system to improve communications inside the buildings and districtwide.

Q: What is the tax impact of the bond?

A: After taking into account the district's 59.7% state building aid, the direct cost to the taxpayers would be approximately \$7 million. At this time the district will benefit from New York State providing additional aid on a number of projects that deal with safety and security.

The figures in the chart below are approximate annual costs based on average home values. As you can see, the first tax impact is not until 2015-16 and the amount is expected to decrease in 2016-17 and beyond.

Home Value	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 and beyond
\$250,000	0	0	\$43 /yr	\$33 /yr
\$300,000	0	0	\$51 /yr	\$39 /yr
\$400,000	0	0	\$68 /yr	\$52 /yr

Area police departments immediately increased the police presence in and around our buildings. Officers from Yorktown and Westchester County police departments have become a regular presence in the area of the schools including regular visits inside and outside the schools.

Q: What is the timeline for the projects if the proposition is approved?

A: After the district obtains voter approval, the architects will draw up the specific plans which will take two to three months. These plans are submitted to the New York State Education Department (SED) for approval. All construction projects require state approval. The approval process could take between three and six months depending on the number of projects submitted statewide to the SED. The architects will design the projects in two phases with projects that need a smaller amount of time to obtain SED approval being completed first. Following SED approval, the plans will go out to bid. If approved by the voters in November, the district hopes to begin some projects as soon as the summer of 2014 and complete work in the summer of 2015. Since most of the projects will involve work inside the schools, the work will be scheduled for completion during the summer.

Q: What are some of the health related projects included in the bond?

A: The district has also identified a number of health-related projects. These include replacing all the windows at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School which may contain PCBs in the caulking. The existing windows are original to the building. The bond will also add air conditioning in the auditorium, computer room, and library at Lakeland High School and the cafeteria at Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School. These large spaces are used extensively by the school community. The auditorium at Lakeland High School is an area that has been identified as a potential security weakness since doors to the outside are often propped open when the indoor temperatures rise.

Lakeland Central School District
Administration Building
1086 East Main Street
Shrub Oak, New York 10588

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TO: LAKELAND RESIDENT

Safety, Security, and Health Bond Vote

November 19, 2013; 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
Van Cortlandtville E.S., 3100 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE VOTE?

The Lakeland Board of Education will hold the bond vote on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Van Cortlandtville Elementary School, Route 6, Mohegan Lake.

WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible to vote in the school district, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- 18 years of age or older;
- A Lakeland School District resident for at least 30 days;
- Currently registered to vote

NOTE: If you are currently registered to vote in the general governmental elections, you can vote in the school district election.

BOND PROPOSITION

RESOLVED: (a) That the Board of Education of the Lakeland Central School District of Shrub Oak, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to construct safety, security and other alterations and improvements to District buildings and sites, and to expend \$14,496,107 therefor; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$14,496,107 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$14,496,107 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

The voting will be conducted by ballot on voting machines as provided in the Education Law and the polls will remain open from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

State Aid Reduces School District's Share of Bond Cost

Bonds are a way for school districts to borrow funds to complete construction projects that require a large amount of funding and are similar to a homeowner's mortgage.

Unlike a mortgage, however, New York State funds a portion (59.7% for Lakeland) of the costs.

New York State is currently offering additional aid on a number of projects that involve improvements of security and safety within school buildings.

PROJECT COMPONENTS' OVERVIEW

- Upgrade Phone and Public Address System
- Upgrade Video Surveillance
- Secure Entrance Vestibules
- Add Building Access Control Systems
- Install Interior Classroom Lockdown Hardware
- Implement Health and Safety Projects