



## Skaneateles Central School District

*Nationally Recognized for Excellence*  
45 East Elizabeth Street  
Skaneateles, New York 13152

**Eric Knuth**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(315) 291-2221

Christine DeMass  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Business Operations  
(315) 291-2268  
Fax (315) 685-0347

Dear Skaneateles family,

I am reaching out once again to share important information about our upcoming Capital Project vote on December 8, and additional historical context for perspective on why this work is important and why the process for planning this work is all happening now. Please follow the link here for an introductory video. [Project 2023-2024](#)

For many years the Skaneateles Board of Education has worked diligently to maintain fiscal responsibility and a level debt structure for the school district. To that end, the school district has engaged in more frequent smaller to mid-sized capital improvements which avoid constantly fluctuating tax impact to the community. Project 2023-2024 has been carefully planned to commence at a time where old debt expires and this will allow us to complete much needed repair and infrastructure work to our facilities without any significant increases in the payments we owe as a district.

As shared in my previous letter, every 5 years school districts go through a comprehensive inspection process known as a building condition survey. As school buildings are subsidized by New York State, this process ensures that those investments are kept in safe working order by the individual school districts engaged in state aided capital repair and improvement projects. Skaneateles Central Schools completed the building condition survey process this year and over \$55 million in needed capital repairs and improvements were identified. After months of work and a great deal of prioritization, the scope of Project 2023-2024 has been narrowed to \$21.5 million.

Planning for this project began back in 2017 when voters approved the funding of 2 reserves. In 2017 voters established the General Construction Capital Reserve, funded with \$2.5 million and the Turf Replacement and Track Resurfacing Capital Reserve, funded with \$375,000. Both of these reserves will be dedicated to project 2023-2024 pending voter approval and will substantially reduce the amount the district is required to borrow to complete necessary work. The combination of maintaining level debt, state aid, and the allocation of these reserves will allow us to complete work on Project 2023-2024 without any increase in tax levy for this portion of the budget.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss Project 2023-2024, I am available to meet in person at our district offices each Wednesday morning beginning next week, October 28 at 8:30 am. Please contact Rebecca York at [ryork@skanschools.org](mailto:ryork@skanschools.org) or by phone at 315-291-2221 to make an appointment and assist in our compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols. If in person meetings are inconvenient, I will also be available via Zoom each Wednesday beginning October 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Additional details will be provided.

In the coming weeks leading up to our December 8 vote additional information will be provided regarding in person and absentee voting as well as detailed financial updates from our Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations, Christine DeMass.

Thank you for your continued support of Skaneateles Schools.

Stronger together,

Eric Knuth

Skaneateles High School  
Gregory Santoro  
(315) 291-2231

Skaneateles Middle School  
Michael Caraccio  
(315) 291-2241

State Street Intermediate School  
John Lawrence  
(315) 291-2261

Belle H. Waterman Primary School  
Patrick J. Brown  
(315) 291-2351