

# 2023 Capital Improvement Project



Additional Information  
*Questions and Answers*

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This supplemental *Questions and Answers* document aims to help answer some of our community members' additional questions.

Please be sure to check out the full *Proposed Capital Improvement Project Information Session* presentation that was presented on November 14, 2023. It can be found on our webpage under “Announcements” and a link to the presentation is also provided below. Our *Capital Improvement Project-Special Edition* District Newsletter that was mailed out also contains a great deal of information.

**Link to Presentation:**

<https://www.remsencsd.org/cms/lib/NY01913914/Centricity/Domain/4/Public%20Information%20Session%2011-14-2023%20Final.pdf>

**Link to Newsletter:**

<https://www.remsencsd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=1810&dataid=7400&FileName=CapitalProject%20Newsletter%202023-24.pdf>

*Thank you for your support!*



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**1) Why is Remsen planning another Capital Improvement Project? Didn't we just have one five or six years ago?**

*Yes. Capital projects replace, renovate, and replenish district facilities, systems, and infrastructure. These projects take years to plan and execute. This cycle of updating coincides with the upkeep demands of a multi-functional and extremely valuable collection of public assets. To extend the cycle of repair and refreshment would cause depletion and degradation of those assets to the point of risking major failures and inordinate renovation costs.*

*Additionally, Capital projects allow the district to receive 83.5 cents back on every dollar of aidable expenses in New York State Building Aid. Paying for these repairs and renovations outside of an approved Capital project would require the school district to pay 100% of the costs compared to only 16.5% of the aidable costs if done through a Capital Improvement Project.*

**2) I know the public information session meeting date and time was well-advertised and included in the special edition Capital Project Newsletter that was mailed out to all school district residents, but I was not able to attend the meeting. If I have questions regarding the project, how may I contact the school?**

*The District Office staff are always available to address questions regarding capital projects, school finance, and any other school related questions. Mr. Jenny and Mr. McKeown can be reached using the contact information provided on the school website or by calling 315-205-4300.*



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**3) What is Remsen's Building Aid ratio for Capital Improvement Projects and what does that mean?**

*The district receives NYS Building Aid of 83.5% of the project costs. For costs to be eligible to drive aid, they must be allowable by definition (the state will only pay aid for something that is necessary and supportive of instruction) and be within the maximum aid payable to each specific district as determined by the State Education Department. We have approval for aid from NYS prior to beginning a project.*

**4) In the special edition newsletter and in the Public Information Session presentation it states that the district plans to use \$2,225,000 from its Capital Reserves to help fund this project. Some people are stating that we do not have a reserve fund, is this true?**

*No. The district has several reserve funds which are defined, created, and used pursuant to NYS law. One of these is a Capital Reserve which is specifically created to help reduce the amount of borrowing necessary to pay for capital projects. The District has responsibly funded this reserve over time in preparation for proposed Capital Improvement Projects.*

*Using the Capital Reserve is similar to making a down payment for a large purchase like a car or home. The use of the capital reserve does not affect other reserves or the district's general fund balance which are maintained as part of a multi-year strategic plan to ensure financial stability.*



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**5) Is the District using all of its reserve funds by applying \$2,225,000 to the Capital Project so that they do not have any money remaining in reserves (savings)?**

*No. The district will retain other reserves in the amount of \$976,012 as well as the regular fund balance.*

**6) The Capital Project information states that there is “no anticipated additional tax impact.” What does that mean?**

*In the course of planning a capital project, we forecast the point in time that the debt payments resulting from funding the project become payable. This is matched with the expiration of existing debt payments from past projects so that the net effect is a zero (or negative) impact on the general fund budget which impacts taxes.*

*For example, suppose you purchase a new car at the point in time when you are about ready to pay off the remaining loan from your previous car. You work to ensure that the new loan payment will be approximately the same as the payment you were making on your previous car, thereby not having any “anticipated additional impact” on your budget. Because one debt is falling off and the new loan of similar value is coming on simultaneously, there should be no anticipated additional impact or change to your overall budget due to the new car loan.*



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**7) Does “no anticipated additional tax impact” for this proposed project mean that there will not be a tax increase for the next school year budget cycle?**

*No. There is always the potential for tax increases given all of the other factors that we discuss each budget season (e.g., salaries, health insurance, operational costs, etc.). “No anticipated additional tax impact” simply means that this project is not expected to be one of the contributing factors.*

**8) Has the district factored in rising costs and inflation within the proposed budget of this project?**

*Yes. The cost estimation process includes escalation due to inflation and is calculated using industry-wide standards used by our architects and construction management firms.*

**9) I don’t have children in school anymore. Why should I continue to support the school?**

*Remsen CSD serves as much more than an instructional institution and fosters the development of good citizenship, social enrichment and economic stability – community traits that benefit everyone.*

**10) School taxes place a heavy burden on people with fixed incomes and those with lower incomes.**

*The Board of Education and the school administration are very aware of the challenges that we all face as residents and supporters of the school. That is why prudent and conservative planning have helped keep tax levy increases at a modest level, less than 2% for a number of years.*

**11) When is the vote for the proposed Capital Improvement Project?**

*The vote is scheduled for December 5, 2023 in the Remsen Elementary cafeteria from 1pm until 8pm.*







# Capital Project Vote



Tuesday, December 5, 2023  
1:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Elementary Cafeteria



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# Where to Vote

Remsen Elementary School  
Cafeteria

Enter Cafeteria to Vote Here

Elementary Cafeteria  
1:00 PM – 8:00 PM



Voter Parking in Elementary Lot

Please enter through cafeteria doors from the parking lot

Note: Elementary Parents picking up their child in the afternoon may find a parking spot, come in to vote, and then take their child from the gym



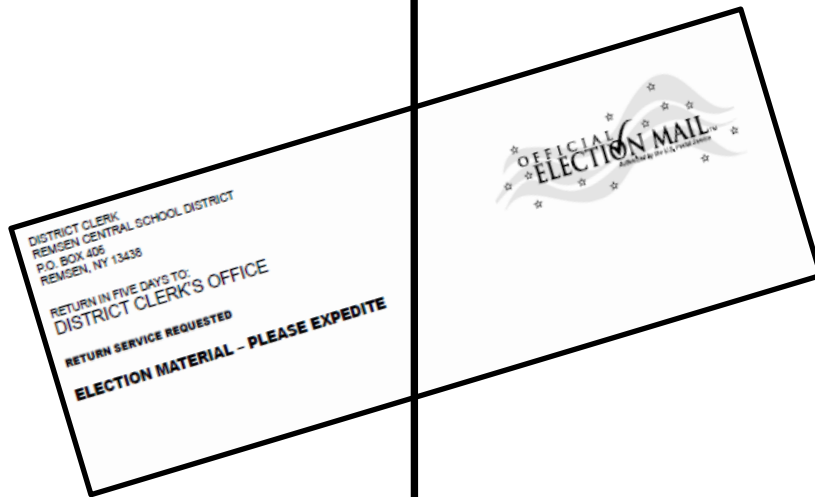




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# *Absentee Ballot*

## Absentee Ballot



For an absentee ballot application, please contact the District Clerk at 315-205-4300 x.4221 or [owoolheater@remsenscd.org](mailto:owoolheater@remsenscd.org)

## Can I Vote By Absentee Ballot?

Residents who will not be in the area on December 5, 2023 or who are unable to vote in person, may apply for an absentee ballot at the Remsen Central School District Office. If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until the day before the vote. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 PM on December 5, 2023.

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# *Voter Qualifications*



To Vote, You Must Be:

A citizen of the United States

At least 18 years old

A resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting when the vote is held

Qualified to register for or vote at an election in accordance with the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law



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## Your support ensures...

*...that we can continue to provide our students with a high quality,  
well-rounded education*

*...well-maintained, safe, efficient facilities*

*...sustainability*

*...and...*

*...that we continue to work towards our collective goal to ensure that we  
leave our children, for generations to come, with an even better community  
and school than we have today.*

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*Thank you for your support!*



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