

Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE
No Tax Impact to Taxpayers

Friday, September 2, 2022 • 12 – 9 p.m.
Berlin Elementary School Gymnasium

Capital Project Proposal Targets Outdated Heating Systems and Enhances Outdoor Learning Opportunities

On September 2 Berlin Central School District residents will vote on a Capital Project with two propositions.

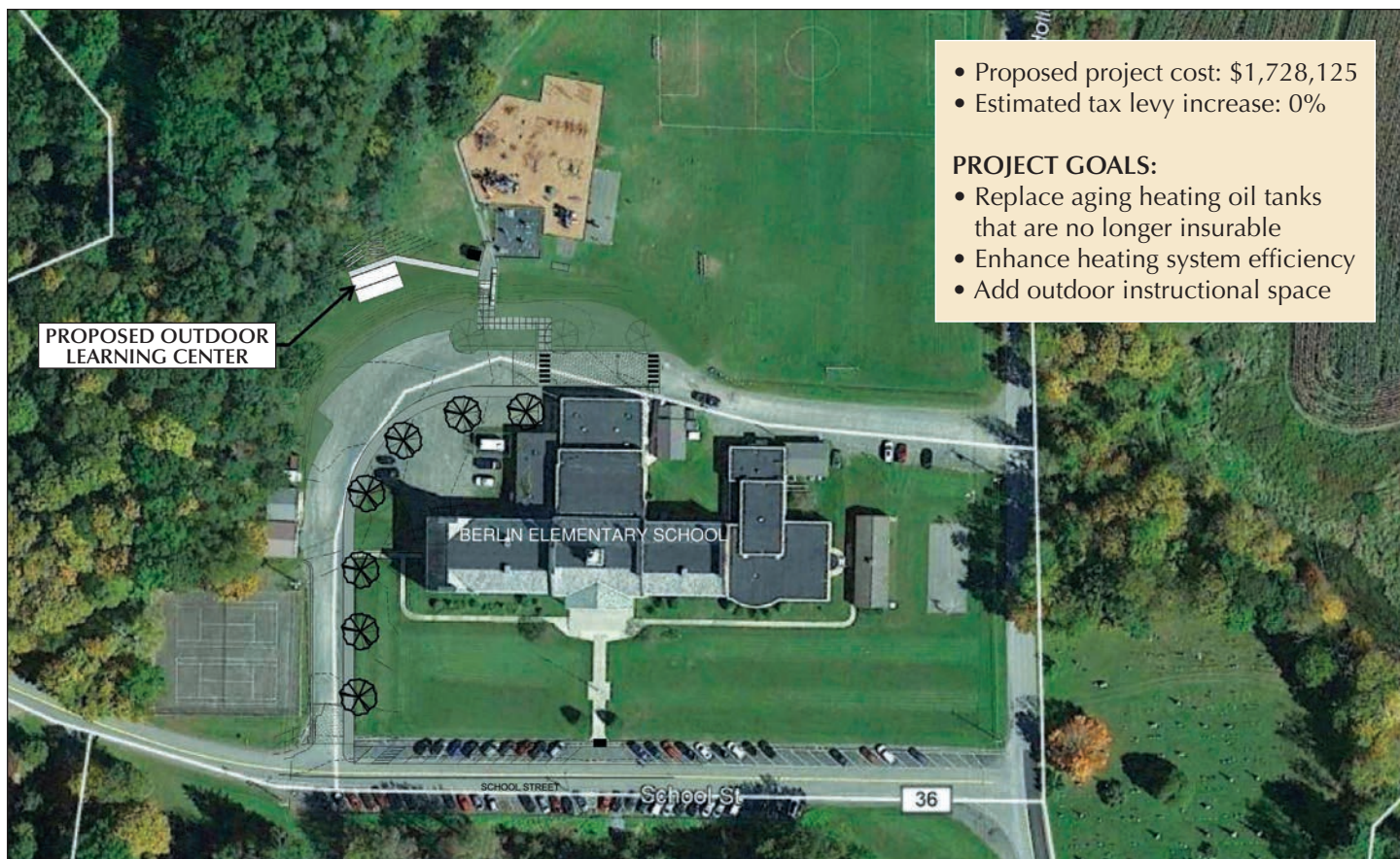
PROPOSITION #1 will replace the Middle/High School's aging fuel-oil tanks for two below-grade 6,565-gallon propane storage tanks, along with furnishings, machinery, equipment, apparatus, implements and fixtures as well as site work. It is estimated not to exceed \$781,250.

PROPOSITION #2 will similarly replace the Elementary School's aging fuel-oil tank with two below-grade 4,000-gallon propane storage tanks and associated site work. Proposition #2 also includes a long-awaited Outdoor Learning Center, which has been in discussion for many years. This Learning Center will also be a space for the community to use in the future in addition to students and teachers using it for educational

purposes throughout the year. Proposition #2 is estimated not to exceed \$946,875.

This capital project will have NO tax impact to the taxpayers, through use of the district's Capital Reserve Fund and State Aid associated with the project.

"We are very excited about this capital project because it addresses certain long-term needs of our district both from a safety, as well as an educational standpoint, with zero tax impact for taxpayers. There have been discussions and planning about the tank replacement and an Outdoor Learning Center for many years and now we will be able to bring these to completion for our school district and community." Superintendent Joseph Dhara.



- Proposed project cost: \$1,728,125
- Estimated tax levy increase: 0%

PROJECT GOALS:

- Replace aging heating oil tanks that are no longer insurable
- Enhance heating system efficiency
- Add outdoor instructional space

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WHY DO WE NEED THIS PROJECT?

- The projects include replacing outdated heating oil tanks (more than 35 years old) with new Propane tanks. This has multiple benefits:
 - > Propane is clean burning, healthier for our kids, and at current fuel costs Propane is financially beneficial
 - > The new tanks are highly regulated and come with multiple safety features, requiring reduced maintenance cost
 - > Upgrading an outdated heating system
 - > Removal of old tanks, which are not under any warranty, will minimize future environmental and financial impacts
 - > The current Heating Oil tanks are no longer insurable and any spill in the future would make the district 100% liable. Any future spill would also be concerning because of the proximity of the tank to the water well.
- The Outdoor Learning Center at the Berlin Elementary School will provide an opportunity for students to be more in touch with their local environment, while enhancing their learning experiences, aligning with the outdoor spirit of being a Mountaineer.
- This center will also increase community engagement through use of it for events, activities and other programs.
- Studies have shown that bringing students closer to nature supports a child's social-emotional health and well-being. The outdoor classroom also offers an expanded experience in hands-on and creative learning

“Berlin Elementary is very excited about the opportunity to provide an outdoor learning space for our students. It will allow for flexibility and the space to incorporate movement into learning.” — Tracy Kent, Elementary Principal



WHO CAN VOTE?

Voter Eligibility: You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Absentee Ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. prevailing time on September 2, 2022. A list of persons to whom Absentee Ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the Office of the District Clerk Dawn Demick on and after August 29, 2022 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays prior to the day set for the Special Meeting and Vote and on September 2, 2022 the day set for the vote.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAPITAL PROJECT ON OUR WEBSITE: www.berlincentral.org

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