



Highlights

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and Q & A

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New elementary boundaries to maximize resources, support K-5 learners

Since May 2025, the school district has been reviewing options for balancing enrollment at the district's five elementary schools. Demographic shifts have resulted in overcrowding at Glenmont and Eagle Elementary Schools, while Elsmere, Hamagrael and Slingerlands are being underutilized and have available classrooms.

By the time this newsletter reaches homes, the Board of Education may have already taken action on a plan to redraw the enrollment zones that feed each of the five K-5 schools. The new enrollment zones are expected to be in place for the 2026-27 school year.

The process for creating new elementary school zones has included months of work by a stakeholder committee of parents, teachers, and administrators. The committee's work is led by mapping expert Tyler Technologies. Various proposals for redrawing the school maps were presented at several Board meetings and at a community forum.

Balancing enrollment is critical for ensuring that resources, staffing, and facilities are used efficiently to provide an equitable education for all students. This process is required approximately every 10-15 years and is essential to maintaining instructional quality and smaller class sizes that are key to student engagement and academic achievement.

New enrollment zones are expected to:

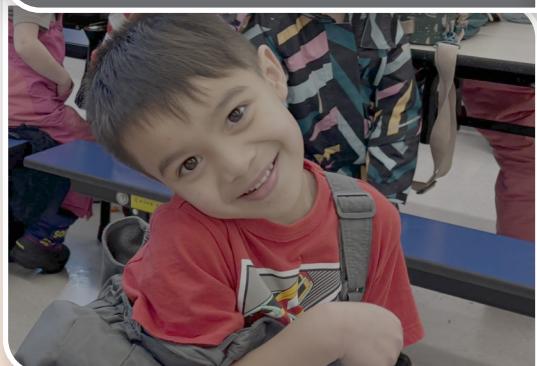
- Maximize space and resources in all five elementary schools;
- Ensure equity for students;
- Reduce out-of-zone placements that have become a stop-gap measure to balance enrollment;
- Maintain transportation efficiency;
- Be sustainable for many years.

"We understand that moving students to a new school brings with it a lot of emotions," said Superintendent Jody Monroe. "We are fortunate to have five exceptional K-5 schools staffed by outstanding professionals. They are ready to support students and families through any period of adjustment."

**CAPITAL
PROJECT
VOTE
TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 3
7am to 9pm at
BCHS Gym A**

What will I be voting on?

- A \$60 million plan to improve teaching and learning throughout the district.
- Classroom renovations in older buildings, air conditioning in known "hot spots" and infrastructure and safety improvements in all buildings.
- No additional tax impact.





Happy New Year from our schools!



Caring and Sharing supports community, wellness

It's an annual holiday tradition unique to BC: students, families and community businesses donate food and gift cards to support the district's Caring and Sharing program. Thousands of food items were received this year. All of the items were sorted, organized and packaged by members of the BCHS Student Senate. District administrators handed out nearly 100 holiday packages with food and gift cards to district families ahead of the December break. The balance of the donations will support the BC Weekend Backpack Program and some was shared with food pantries right here in the district.

Thank you for your generous support!

CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE IS TUESDAY, FEB. 3

- District property includes nearly 1,000,000 square feet across nine buildings (seven schools plus Transportation and Operations and Maintenance). Nearly half, or 48.4%, of the project would address infrastructure upkeep and new, upgraded safety systems at all schools.
- If approved, 17.4% of the project would be used to add air conditioning to known "hot spots" in the district. How hot? On a day in the month of May, temperatures in 40 classrooms measured between 80.4 and 87.3 degrees.
- Approximately 34.2% of the proposed project would renovate classrooms last updated in the 1950s or 1970s. They are mid-century modern classrooms, from the last century.

February 3 Capital Project Q & A

Q.	Why is the Capital Project Vote being held on February 3?
A.	The vote was postponed from December 2, 2025 due to a dangerous snowstorm that closed schools. The Feb. 3 vote date allows the district to continue on a timeline in which construction would begin in spring of 2027. This timeframe allows for design work, State Education Department (SED) approvals and the bidding process. If a vote were delayed to May, the timeline would be pushed back far enough that construction could not begin until spring 2028. A delay would also disrupt the timing of bond financing and state aid payments that, with a February 3 vote, allows the project to be budget neutral, with no additional impact to taxpayers.
Q.	What is the total cost of this Capital Project? What is the impact on local taxpayers?
A.	If approved, the cost of the project would not exceed \$60,000,000. Due to anticipated state building aid, advance planning and expiring debt, there would be no additional tax impact to local taxpayers. New York State Building Aid is expected to fund 71.8% of eligible project costs. In addition, the district plans to use voter-approved savings from previous years. The district has \$16.6 million in a Capital Reserve which would be used to offset project costs, saving local taxpayers money. Strategic timing of the project is also key, as the district will be nearing final payoff of debt from prior capital projects as new, comparable debt payments are added, resulting in a budget-neutral plan.
Q.	Who will benefit from the Capital Project?
A.	The proposed project will benefit students, staff and the community, with students experiencing the greatest impact. Modernizing classrooms and other learning spaces will enrich the educational experience while enhancing the overall value of district facilities. In addition, BCSD frequently opens its buildings to community members for a variety of purposes, from using athletic fields and gyms to attending events such as stage productions in our auditoriums. Capital improvements can positively impact home values, too. The National Association of Realtors reports that nearly 30% of home buyers list "school quality" as a deciding factor in their home purchase.

BC IS HIRING BUS DRIVERS

\$25.73/HR

FLEXIBLE P/T SCHEDULES

NYS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

\$1,000 RETENTION BONUS

PAID TRAINING TO OBTAIN CDL
PERMIT & LICENSING

SUPPORTIVE, FRIENDLY TEAM



SCAN ME



OPEN HOUSE
FEB 5
MAR 4
APR 1

Board of Education has new perspective

If you've noticed new faces on the Board of Education, you may be interested to know that the Board now includes two student representatives.

Claire Aliggayu and Rose Pastore, both Bethlehem High School seniors, were chosen to represent BC students in the 2025-26 school year. New York State now requires at least one student representative on school boards.

As ex officio members of the Board, Aliggayu and Pastore sit with the Board at all public meetings and public hearings. And while they are not allowed to vote, the two high school students are asking important questions and bringing critical representation to the all-volunteer policymaking body. They are well-versed on issues including capital project planning and redistricting.

With their service to the Board, Aliggayu and Pastore add to already packed schedules.

Aliggayu is part of the BC Cinematography Club, Peer Helpers as well as the National Coalition Building Institute and Elevating Student Voices program. She also tutors peers in math and AP Biology.

"I am excited for the chance to be part of something bigger than myself," said Aliggayu. "I am enthusiastic about representing student voices in a thoughtful and authentic way. I want to be a tenacious advocate for the concerns and experiences of students who may not always feel heard. I'm eager to listen, learn, and contribute in any way I can."

Pastore is involved in the Philosophy Club, Sign Language Club, Sources of Strength, the Spanish Honor Society and Student Senate. She is also a member of the girls varsity soccer team.

"I appreciate connecting students whose voices are less represented in our district to the Board of Education," said Pastore. "I want to help make each BC student feel like their needs are met by their school, be it elementary, middle, or high school."



Claire Aliggayu and Rose Pastore

JAN. 15-18, 2026

NEWSIES JR. AT BCMS
THE MIDDLE SCHOOL
MUSICAL WILL
DELIGHT AUDIENCES
OF ALL AGES FOR FIVE
PERFORMANCES.

JAN. 28, 2026

EMPTY BOWLS AT BCHS
5PM TO 7PM
\$10 FOR ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
SOUP WITH A HANDMADE
CERAMIC PIECE TO TAKE
HOME.

FEB. 2-5, 2026

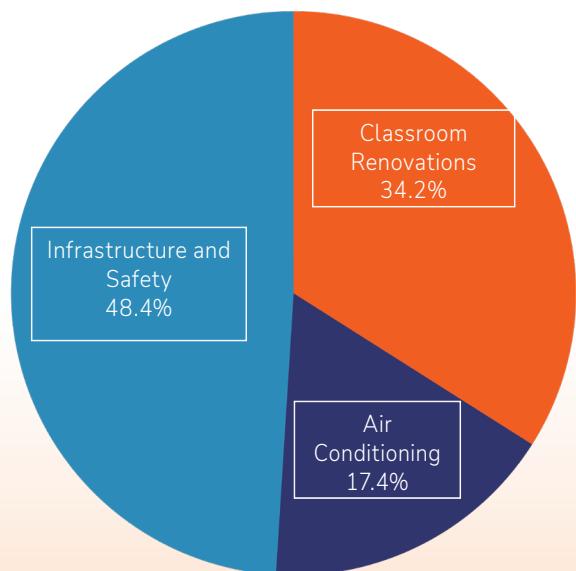
MUSIC CONCERTS AT BCHS
FEB. 2 - BAND
FEB. 3 - CHORUS
FEB. 5 - ORCHESTRA
ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 7PM
AT BCHS.

CAPITAL Project Scope by type

CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS (34.2% OF PROJECT) At four elementary schools (Elsmere, Glenmont, Hamagrael and Slingerlands), a total of 45 classrooms would get new floors, ceilings, lighting, casework and finishes. At BCMS, the art classrooms would be renovated and a music room moved. At BCHS, an art classroom, a Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classroom and technology classrooms would be upgraded. Eagle Elementary, built in 2008, is not slated for classroom work. Estimated cost (including upgrades to other student-use areas such as libraries, cafeterias and gyms) is \$19,989,050.

AIR CONDITIONING (17.4% OF PROJECT) Air conditioning would be added to classrooms that have been identified as "hot spots," where temperatures often exceed 80 degrees in May, June and September. Air conditioning would be added to all schools in common areas such as gyms and cafeterias. Estimated cost is \$10,213,392.

INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFETY (48.4% OF PROJECT) Roof replacements, window and door replacements, masonry repairs, plumbing, & electrical and ventilation infrastructure upgrades, and site drainage and paving projects are proposed throughout the district. Upgraded fire/emergency alarm systems would be added at all schools (except BCHS, which already has an upgraded alarm system). Estimated cost is \$28,343,312.





700 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054

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Jody Monroe

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PERMIT # 730

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

New Capital Project Vote Date is February 3

Renovating 1950s & 1970s-era classrooms for 21st century students

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, BC residents will vote on a \$60 million capital project that if approved, would renovate more than 50 classrooms districtwide, including 45 elementary classrooms that last saw major improvements in the 1950s and 1970s.

The project is expected to have **no additional impact on taxpayers**. The district plans to use \$16.6 million from the 2022 Capital Reserve Fund. New York State building aid will cover approximately 71.8% of eligible costs. Debt service payments associated with the project will replace expiring debt from older capital projects, keeping debt service payments steady, resulting in a plan that is budget-neutral.

In addition to outdated classrooms, other areas, including libraries and cafeterias in older buildings, are scheduled for updates in the proposed capital project:

- **Elsmere Elementary School** (Built 1927) — 13 classrooms, Library Media Center (LMC)
- **Glenmont Elementary School** (Built 1957) — 11 classrooms and a hallway

PROJECT FAST FACTS ON PAGE 2



VOTER ELIGIBILITY, EARLY & ABSENTEE VOTING

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Bethlehem Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. You do NOT need to be registered to vote. Early voting and absentee ballots are available now. Email voterinfo@bethlehemschools.org or call 518-439-7098.

Vote in person:

- Tuesday, Feb. 3
- 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- High School Gym A
- 700 Delaware Ave. in Delmar

CAPITAL PROJECT SNAPSHOT

BALLOT REFERENDUM AMOUNT

\$60,000,000

PROJECT SCOPE INCLUDES

50+ CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS

ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT

\$0