



The SOAR Project

SOAR Project Focus

To preserve our facilities and enhance our educational programs, the SOAR Project focuses on critical needs and improvements in 4 key areas:

S SAFETY

O OPERATIONS

A ACADEMICS

R RENOVATIONS

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

Both meetings will include an overview of the proposed project and an opportunity to ask questions.

MEETING 1

TUESDAY, JULY 13TH, 7:00 PM
MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MEETING 2

THURSDAY, JULY 15TH, 7:00 PM
HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

The July 13th meeting will also be recorded and a link will be posted on the District's website.

Proposed Capital Improvement Project Prioritizes Safety, Operations, Academics and Renovations

Dear Residents,

Frontier Central School District is committed to fulfilling our tradition of academic excellence and equity by providing our students and community with a safe and rewarding learning environment. Over the past two years, the District and its Facilities Committee have developed a long-range planning initiative to identify current and future improvement needs and the means to responsibly achieve them.

The result is the proposed 2021 Capital Improvements Project, nicknamed the **SOAR Project**. The goal of this district-wide project is to prepare our students for a bright and successful future by preserving and enhancing one of the most important assets our community owns: our schools. The SOAR Project addresses safety and security improvements, operations systems and efficiency upgrades, academic program enhancements, and renovations at each of our schools that will serve to enrich our community and have our students soaring to new heights.

An overview of the work being proposed at each school is detailed on the next page, and additional information will continue to be added to the District's website. **We also encourage you to attend one of the Public Meetings to be held on July 13th and 15th where you can learn more about the project and ask questions.**

Sincerely,

Frontier Central School District
Board of Education

One Polling Site For All Frontier Central Schools Hamburg Senior Community Center Gymnasium

4540 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg

CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE

**Polls will be open on Tuesday, July 20, 2021
from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.**



All residents are asked to show one current proof of residency, which may include a driver's license, a nondriver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. In addition, all individuals voting will be required to provide his/her signature, printed name, and address.

SOAR Project Scope Highlights

S

SAFETY

O

OPERATIONS

A

ACADEMICS

R

RENOVATIONS

Pinehurst Elementary

- New secured entry
- Emergency blue light notification system
- New playground
- Classroom renovations (e.g., asbestos abatement, flooring, ceilings, lights, cabinetry, white boards & tack boards, painting)
- Renovate boys' & girls' toilet rooms

Big Tree Elementary

- Emergency blue light notification system
- New playground
- Miscellaneous asbestos abatement
- Exterior digital LED sign
- Kitchen serving lines

Cloverbank Elementary

- Emergency blue light notification system
- Expand playground & add rubberized play surface
- Kitchen serving lines
- Miscellaneous asbestos abatement

Blasdell Elementary

- Emergency blue light notification system
- New playground
- Miscellaneous asbestos abatement
- New bus loop at front of building (to exit at Madison Ave. signal)
- Kitchen serving lines

Elementary School Playgrounds:

Safety improvements and imaginative themes

The SOAR Project includes playground renovations at all four of our elementary schools. These improvements would optimize student safety with age-appropriate playground equipment and safe surfaces, built around imaginative themes, such as these potential ideas:



Farm Theme



Space Theme



First Responders Theme



Adventure Theme



STEAM Academic Programs:

Classroom improvements to support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math Programs

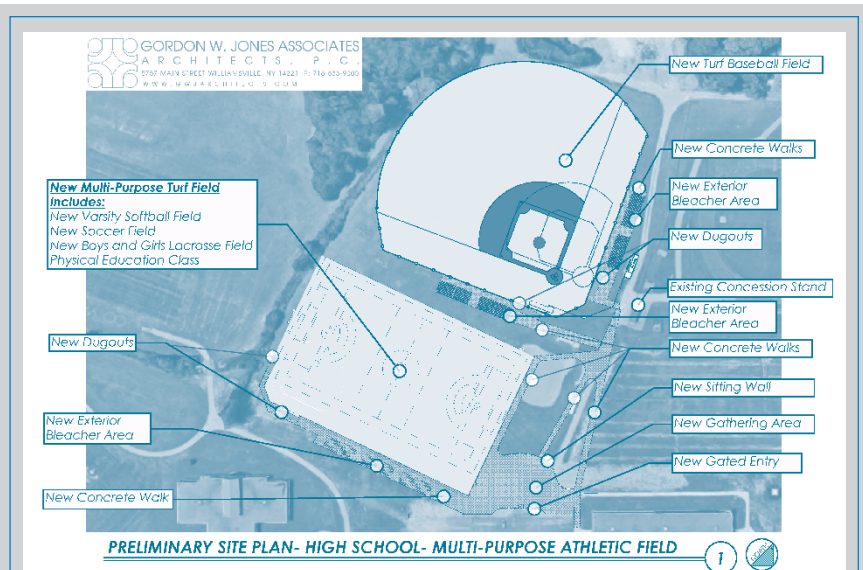
The SOAR Project includes classroom renovations at the Middle and High Schools to provide our students with enhanced, modernized learning spaces for core academic programs.

Middle School

- New secured entry
- Emergency blue light notification system
- Replace three boilers
- Convert technology & team rooms to a STEAM suite
- Convert pool to PE (physical education) station
- Renovate auxiliary gymnasium
- Renovate gymnasium locker rooms
- Kitchen/cafeteria renovations
- Replace roof at technology wing, auditorium, gym, locker room & pool

High School

- New secured entry
- Emergency blue light notification system
- Renovation to main office
- STEAM suite
- Gymnasium renovations
- Baseball field renovations (inc. synthetic turf field)
- New synthetic turf multi-purpose field
- Pool renovations
- Auditorium lobby renovations 1st & 2nd floor
- Kitchen & cafeteria renovations
- Replace roof at foreign language studies wing



Physical Education & Athletic Programs:

All-weather surfaces for multiple sports and year-round use

The SOAR Project includes upgrades to the baseball field, including a new synthetic turf field with improved drainage, and a new synthetic turf multi-purpose athletic field that can stand up to frequent, repeated use for physical education, softball, soccer, and lacrosse.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is the District proposing a capital project now?

A. The Frontier Central School District is committed to exercising care and good judgment in managing the community resources with which we are entrusted. We need to take care of our schools, an important asset the community owns. Just as one’s home ages and needs upkeep and repairs to keep it in good shape, so too do our schools. Over the past two years, the District and its Facilities Committee have developed a long-range planning initiative to identify current and future capital improvement needs and the means to responsibly achieve them. Critical safety needs and large repairs were identified and prioritized through the Building Condition Survey (BCS) process, which is mandated by the State to be conducted every five years. The District is addressing these issues now, rather than delaying and facing future higher costs and further deterioration.

Q. How was the proposed capital project developed?

A. The Board of Education had a licensed architect perform the BCS, a comprehensive facility review that considered work completed in previous projects and conditions of all facilities. Additionally, they met with the administration and Facilities Committee to discuss instructional indicators requiring attention. The Board then reviewed the recommendations over several meetings, asked questions, and listened to the public to develop the project’s scope, delivery timeline, and financing.

Q. What needs does the project address?

A. The SOAR Project focuses on four key areas: 1) Safety and security enhancements; 2) Operations systems and efficiency improvements; 3) Academic program enhancements; and 4) Renovations and reconstruction needs.

Q. Why is the District proposing athletic field renovations?

A. The current grass athletics field and the baseball field at the High School have ongoing drainage and weather related issues that affect player safety and usability for games during wet seasons. Both of these fields require frequent repairs to maintain safe, consistent use. Our students and our community would be better served by a more thorough reconstruction to correct these issues for the long term. The scope of these items is significant, warranting a review of our entire outdoor athletic and physical education program to ensure the greatest return on investment for our taxpayers.

After thorough review and many discussions with consultants and stakeholders, the Board of Education agreed that adding all-weather synthetic turf at both fields would be a fiscally responsible solution that would also support the District’s commitment to providing equity among our student athletic teams and our community programs.

Q. What is included in the proposed multi-purpose athletic field improvements?

A. The proposed multi-sport, synthetic turf field would be marked for softball, soccer, and lacrosse. It would also be used by students for physical education programs. New dugouts, bleachers, and walkways would be included, as well as a new gated entry and gathering area for spectators and teams.

Q. When will the work take place?

A. It’s expected that the State Education Department’s approval for the project’s initial phase would be received in early 2022, allowing work to begin next summer. The bulk

continued on the next page

Project Funding

The district-wide improvements included in the proposed SOAR Project would cost a total of \$70,116,550. The majority of the project’s cost would be funded by a combination of available State Building Aid and the District’s capital reserves, both of which are specifically designated for use on capital projects. The remaining “local share” would be financed through the local tax levy.

Due to careful project planning, financial implementation, and consideration of our taxpayers, this project would result in NO MARGINAL TAX INCREASE until the 2024-25 school year.

Annual Marginal Tax Increase

Town/School Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
Hamburg	\$0			\$92.38	\$22.61	\$9.73	\$124.72
Eden	\$0			\$77.63	\$18.98	\$8.17	\$104.78

Amounts above are based on \$100,000 assessed/equalized home value



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Please Vote



July 20th

continued from the previous page

of the work would take place during the summer months of 2022-2028 to maximize student safety and minimize program disruption, with final completion anticipated in late 2028.

Q. What is the total cost of this proposed project and how will it affect my taxes?

A. The total cost of the project is \$70,116,550. The majority of the project's cost will be funded by a combination of State Building Aid and the District's capital reserve fund. The capital reserve fund is designated to be used exclusively for capital improvement projects.

The remainder would be funded through the local tax levy. Due to careful project planning, financial implementation, and consideration of our taxpayers, the tax impact would not take effect until the 2024-2025 school year. The first increase would be followed by two smaller incremental increases in subsequent years. On average, the project's tax increase per \$100,000 assessed/equalized home value would total \$124.72 for Hamburg residents and \$104.78 for Eden residents.

Q. Isn't State Aid just my tax dollars too?

A. Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature has given all Districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars to

enhance their communities through school building improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to keep some of those tax dollars in our own community, working to improve the educational setting for our children and the public.

Q. What if the referendum does not pass?

A. The critical safety requirements and facilities that reached their end-of-life identified by the State-mandated Building Condition Survey would still be absolutely necessary. If the referendum does not pass, these requirements would still need to be addressed. A bond vote allows the District to receive partial reimbursement of the project's cost through State Building Aid. Without the State's aid, the funds for any required work would have to come from the annual budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost.

Q. Where can I find out more about the capital project?

A. In order to respect social distancing guidelines, two separate Public Information Meetings with an open forum for questions and answers will be held. The first will be on July 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium, and the second will be held on July 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Project information is also available online at www.frontiercsd.org/soar-project.

Project Information Sources

Information about the proposed project is available through the following resources:

On our website:

Project information documents and voter information will be updated regularly on the District's website:

 www.frontiercsd.org

On social media:

Meeting reminders and project updates will be shared on our social media outlets:

 [@FrontierCSD.org](https://www.facebook.com/FrontierCSD.org)

 [@FrontierCSD](https://twitter.com/FrontierCSD)

At the Public Information Meetings

WHEN: Tuesday, July 13th, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Middle School Auditorium

WHEN: Thursday, July 15th, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: High School Auditorium

The July 13th meeting will also be recorded and a link will be posted on the District's website.