



The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

www.k12.ginet.org

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District

Grand Island Schools 2011-2012 Capital Project Vote

Tuesday, December 20, 2011 • 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Grand Island High School Gym: 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Voter Identification Required (no pre-registration required)

District Receives Second Highest Financial Rating in Upstate NY

The District, like a resident making a home purchase, will need to borrow money to pay for the project. In order to lower the total amount of interest required to be paid out, the District has selected a 15 year payback option vs. a greater number of years creating more interest dollars.

Like the conditions that all families face, their credit rating strongly impacts the interest rate. A financially stronger family or school district will get a lower borrowing rate than a family or school district having financial problems.

The Grand Island Central School District was last upgraded in July 2008 by Moody's Inc. from A-2 to A-1. In April 2010, based on our excellent financial status, the District was again upgraded two levels to "Aa2". This is the second highest school district rating in all of Upstate New York. The District is very proud to have achieved this rating and, as a result, District residents will see a considerable savings in the cost of borrowing as compared to many hundreds of other school districts which need to borrow for a variety of needs.

A Message from Your Board of Education President - Dave Goris

The Grand Island Board of Education encourages you to take the opportunity to vote on a two-part capital project to improve the quality of academics and life on Grand Island. The scope of that project is outlined in this edition of The Bridge.

Over the last year, the board, district staff and community members worked closely together to assemble this much needed capital project. The board is extremely grateful to the Facilities Committee for their commitment, support and all the late nights spent developing this project. We believe this capital project, if passed, will position the district to deliver the educational environment our children deserve to better prepare them for the rest of their lives.

A wealth of information regarding the capital project has been made available through a series of community meetings as well as on the District website and our new Facebook page. If this is the first time you've become aware of the project, please take a few moments to read through this information. If you have any questions, please contact any school board or district staff member.

We are confident that this crucial capital project has been carefully planned and will benefit both the students and taxpayers of this community. Your vote is important and we encourage you to let your voice be heard on Tuesday, December 20. Voting will take place in the Grand Island High School gymnasium from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please read on for more information on the scope of the capital project, voting qualifications and absentee ballot information or visit the District website at www.k12.ginet.org.

Sincerely,
David Goris, Board of Education President

Vice President: Tak Nobumoto
Trustees: Glenn Bobeck, Emily Ciruolo, Joan Droit, Paul Krull and Donna Tomkins
Superintendent: Robert W. Christmann



*David Goris,
Board of Education
President*

A Special Thank You

Thank you to the Grand Island Board of Education and the Facility Committee for all their hard work and dedication.

The Grand Island Board of Education

David Goris, President
Tak Nobumoto, Vice President
Glenn Bobeck, Trustee
Emily Ciraolo, Trustee
Joan Droit, Trustee
Paul Krull, Trustee
Donna Tomkins, Trustee

Committee Members

David Goris, Chairman
Frank Burkhart, Co-Chairman
Norman Stessing, Co-Chairman

Sam Akinbami	Carl Koppman
Celeste Angelo	Peg Koppman
Sandra Anzalone	Molly Marren
Andres Arroyo	AnnaLea Masiello
Bruce Benson	Paul Maziarz
Eric Berger	Denise McMahon
Ray Billica	Nigel Michki
Myrna Blair	Renee Michki
Cyndi Booker	Cyndy Montana
Charlene Burchfield	Laura Murray
Jack Burns	Kerri Nowak
Sue Campbell	Lee Nowoczin
Cheryl Cardone	Jim O'Rourke
Maryann D'Avolio	Dan Olszewski
Jon Dalbo	Jerry Parisi
Denise Dunbar	Eleanor Payne
Daneen Gallagher	Thomas Rachow
Jeff Green	Robert Ratajczak
Mary Haggerty	Patrina Rizzuto
Felecia Hanesworth	Jon Roth
Josephine Hegarty	Ronald Rose
Robert Hobba	Jayne Schaber
Mary Howard	Cindy Sharpe
Lorraine Ingrasci	Steve Steck
Christopher Kam	Jeff Stone
Karen Karmazin	Diane Thompson
Rev. Earle King	John Tripi, Jr.
Kim Kinney	Keith Tripi

Message from Your Superintendent

It was one year ago this month that the Grand Island Board of Education put out an open call inviting parents, faculty, staff and community members to consider serving on a committee which would provide the Board with recommendations for a possible future capital project. Committee members reviewed the state required "Building Conditions" report as well as identified any potential needs for improved/expanded educational space.

It is with deep appreciation that I now thank the Grand Island Central School District Facility Committee for their service and dedication during the last 10 months as a member of this very important team. Their time, effort and common sense approach to meeting our building needs was critical to our development of a capital project proposal for you, the community, to consider on Tuesday, December 20, 2011. It would not have been possible without all their hard work and dedication to our schools and our community.

Thank you.



Robert W. Christmann
Superintendent of Schools



Robert W. Christmann
Superintendent of Schools

Absentee Ballot Information

For those voters who qualify, absentee ballots are available. Of course, there are specific reasons for the use of absentee ballots. To be considered, you must fit one of the following categories:

- Duties, occupation or business outside of County or Town
- Vacation outside of County
- Patient in hospital
- Unable to appear personally at the polling place on such day because of illness or physical disability.
- Will be detained in jail for an offense other than a felony or awaiting trial or Grand Jury action.
- Will be confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.
- Absence from the school district on the day of election by reason of accompanying or being with a spouse, child or parent who is an eligible district voter and is eligible for an absentee ballot due to one of the above or below listed reasons.
- Confinement due to permanent illness or disability.

Voter Qualifications

Voter identification is required to vote.

Voters must be:

1. A citizen of the United States
2. At least 18 years of age
3. A resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to vote

Voters may request an absentee ballot application by writing to Grand Island Central School District, attn: District Clerk, 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, New York 14072 or by calling 773-8801 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. All completed applications must be returned to the District Office at least 7 days before the vote in order for the ballot to be mailed to the voter.

Completed ballots must be received by the District Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2011.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ's

Why is the District having a bond vote?

Grand Island Schools is committed to providing a safe learning environment and well-maintained facilities for students and public use. Just as one's home ages and needs upkeep and repairs to keep it in good shape, so too, do our schools.

Many routine repairs and projects are funded within the annual District budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. Large repairs and maintenance items, such as those included in this project, would have a major impact on the tax rate if included in the annual District budget.

A bond issue is a fiscally responsible alternative because the State reimburses 82.6% of the eligible cost and the expense is spread out over a longer period of time.

How were the project's components chosen?

In early 2011, a state-mandated Building Conditions Survey (BCS) was submitted to the New York State Education Department (SED). A facilities committee was then formed, consisting of community members, District administrators, teachers and staff. Over a 9 month period, the Committee further defined and prioritized the structural, health and safety needs identified in the BCS. In addition to this process, District staff and administrators were preparing their list of educational based needs and priorities to keep our students competitive with others in the region and throughout the state.

This scope-definition process resulted in defining over \$100 million in structural, health, safety and educational needs throughout the entire District.

Both groups developed and presented their recommendations to the Grand Island Board of Education in late October. The Board decided to develop two propositions to cover the most immediate needs in the District. They also began formulating a plan to address future capital projects, ensuring that the District be financially prepared for such work.

Is there a plan for the transportation facility?

Yes. The District is actively exploring economically feasible options to relocate/rebuild the transportation facility. This plan is for both operational reasons and for the safety of our Sidway students, visitors and staff. The District is scheduling to present to residents a new building plan and location this spring. In anticipation of a new facility, the Board of Education has set aside \$800,000 from the District's reserve fund to address this important need at no or minimal tax increase.

Why two propositions?

The first proposition is for \$46,825,000 and is primarily planned for more critical scope items that will have to be done in the next few years as part of the State-mandated Building Condition Survey. In addition, this proposition addresses the most critical educational needs defined by the District's administration, staff and teachers. This work was grouped together to form a "No Tax Increase" proposition.

The second proposition focuses on two additional priorities – the high school auditorium and the District's most-used outdoor sports facilities. While this work was considered to be an important scope component that would have a positive effect on a large group of students/users, it could not fit within the "No Tax Increase" option.



Therefore, it is being offered to the District voters as a separate proposition.

When will the work take place?

It's expected that the State Education Department's approval for the project will be received by late 2012 with the bulk of work starting in summer 2013. It is anticipated that the project would be complete in 2015.

What is the cost of the proposed project and how will it affect my taxes?

The total cost of both propositions is \$51,425,000.

The cost of Proposition 1 is \$46,825,000. This proposition will be paid for by a combination of State Aid funding, and the District's reserves. There will be no tax increase for this work.

The cost for Proposition 2 is \$4,600,000. This proposition will be paid for by a combination of State Aid funding and by a 2/10 of 1% increase to the District's taxpayers. This equates to approximately \$4.26 annually for a homeowner's \$100,000 full value.

Isn't State Aid just my tax dollars too?

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.

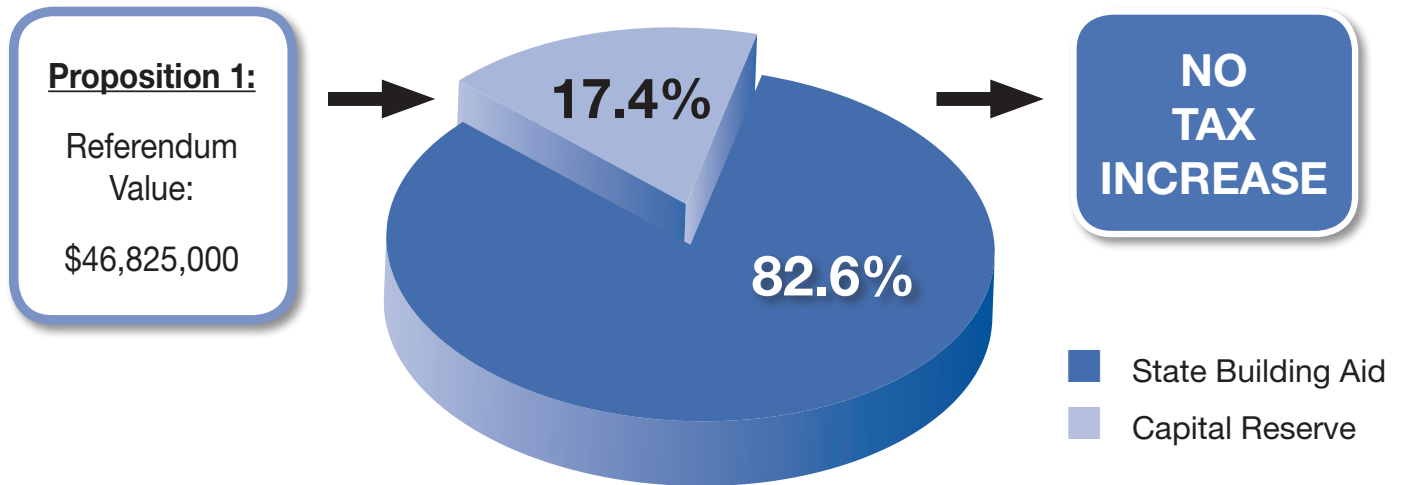
What if the referendum does not pass?

The building maintenance and restoration items are included in the project as response to the State-mandated Building Conditions Survey. Most are therefore considered to be necessary and would still have to be completed. If this work is performed outside of a capital project, it would be completed without the benefit of the State's aid, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost.

continued on page 7

Proposition #1 - \$46,825,000

PROJECT FINANCING



SUMMARY SCOPE OF WORK

Sidway Elementary School\$4,860,000

- Exterior masonry restoration
- Renovate existing library
- Building-wide wireless network
- Repair building expansion joint
- Replace classroom unit ventilators and cabinets in original building
- New direct digital temperature controls
- Replace air handling unit in cafeteria, library and auditorium
- New 8" water main service
- Replace kitchen sanitary drain
- Add smoke detectors in classrooms
- Add visual strobes and fire alarm in classrooms
- Repair catch basin and ponding
- Emergency exit lighting upgrades
- Upgrade master clock, PA system and security system with video surveillance
- Replace electrical panels
- Add new branch circuits and classroom duplex receptacles
- Replace worn exterior door hardware
- Repair water infiltration in basement
- Replace door #9
- Replace classroom closet doors for safety
- Auditorium stage ADA compliance
- Light at flagpole
- Renovate health suite – includes toilet room upgrades for ADA compliance
- Replace gas main piping valve
- Repair windows/screens and replace shades
- Select acoustical ceiling replacement
- Replace worn plumbing fixtures
- Relocate main office for security



Sidway Ramp

Huth Elementary School\$2,405,000

- Repair interior drainage in kitchen, boiler room, toilet rooms and basement
- Replace air handling unit/rooftop fans at auditorium, kitchen, band room and gym
- Install backflow preventer
- Expand computer lab
- Replace/add corridor lockers
- Repair catch basin at bus loop, loading dock
- Add smoke detectors at selected locations
- Emergency exit lighting
- Replace underground electrical and service entrance equipment
- Replace electrical panels, feeders and distribution board
- Upgrade security system/video surveillance
- Exterior grading and foundation repair
- Replace worn doors and hardware
- Install concrete pads at existing exits on east side of building
- Exterior masonry restoration
- Replace folding partition room 100
- Replace gymnasium wall padding
- Add curb cut
- Replace/add select exterior lighting
- Add screens and blinds in classroom windows
- Repair leaks in office and storage room
- Building-wide wireless network
- Replace classroom sink basins



Kaegebein Elementary School\$6,015,000

- Library, classroom and Special Education addition
- Upgrade master clock, PA system and security system w/video surveillance
- Exterior masonry restoration
- Repair slate sills
- Select acoustical ceiling tile replacement
- Add electrical panels and branch circuits
- New electrical main distribution panel, subpanels and feeders
- Replace existing electrical service and switchgear
- Patching and painting select walls/ceilings
- Add smoke detectors
- Replace interior doors and hardware
- Replace auditorium stage flooring and carpeting
- Replace auditorium theatrical/house lighting, sound system and stage dimming board
- Add classroom occupancy sensors
- Replace gym wall divider
- Add emergency and exit lighting
- Replace corridor metal lockers
- Replace select piping, valves and drains
- Repair lower level storm water leaks
- Reroute AC condenser lines in electric room
- Replace concrete sidewalk in courtyard
- Canopy repairs/connect gutters
- Replace storm drainage system
- Exterior grading and foundation repair
- Provide ADA restrooms near auditorium entrance
- Renovate existing boys/girls toilet rooms
- Window repair, add screens
- Add classroom fin tube radiation
- Renovate main office and health office suite
- Single ADA lavatory for cafeteria 1
- Building-wide wireless network
- New exterior ADA egress for each wing
- Replace gym wall pads



Veronica E. Connor Middle School\$10,135,000

- Science department renovation
- OT/PT Room 300 renovation
- Special Education addition
- Replace electrical service entrance equipment
- Replace electrical panels, branch circuits/outlet
- Replace 5KV service and transformers
- Emergency exit lighting
- Replace lighting in gym, library and classrooms corridors
- Add classroom occupancy sensors
- Replace select windows/screens
- Repair aluminum/glass at entranceway
- Replace worn doors, frames and hardware
- Replace master clock and PA system
- Add smoke detectors/fire alarm
- Repair foundation cracks
- Improve front entrance bus loop, access road and parking with high school
- Restore exterior building facade, masonry, glass block, metal panels and soffits
- Replace corridor lockers
- Replace select ceilings - patch and paint
- Technology room 190 - dust collection system
- Gymnasium structural and electrical repairs
- Replace gym wall pads and partition
- Nurses office ADA lavatory



BOND PROPOSITION NO. 1

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Board of Education of the Grand Island Central School District, in the County of Erie, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to expend not to exceed \$46,825,000 to construct additions, alterations and improvements to all District school buildings and sites (the "Project"); (b) that a tax is hereby authorized in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$39,495,000 to pay a portion of the cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education and, that in anticipation of such tax, bonds of the District will be issued, and a tax is also hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable; and (c) that the balance of the cost of the Project shall be provided from moneys currently available in the District's 2008 Capital Reserve Fund, heretofore established following approval by the voters on May 20, 2008 (the "Fund"); and the expenditure of not to exceed \$7,330,000 of moneys in the Fund for said Project is hereby authorized and approved.

YES

NO

Grand Island High School.....\$23,410,000

- Engineering technology/Project Lead the Way renovation/addition
- Science department renovation
- Business department renovation
- OT/PT renovation
- Special Education renovation
- Counseling office renovation
- Health office renovation
- Computer labs renovation
- Replace electrical service entrance equipment
- Replace electrical panels, branch circuits/outlet
- Replace 5KV service and transformers
- Emergency exit lighting
- Replace lighting in gym, library, classrooms and corridors
- Add classroom occupancy sensors
- Replace select windows/screens
- Repair aluminum/glass entranceway
- Replace stage flooring
- Resurface 6-lane running track
- Replace exterior bleachers and press box
- Patch / resurface tennis courts
- Replace visiting bleachers and walkway
- Replace worn doors, frames and hardware
- Replace master clock and PA system
- Repair water main breaks at front corner of building
- Enclose gas meter (service) with chain link fencing
- Replace 12" storm main in basement
- Add smoke detectors/fire alarm
- Replace select ceilings, patch and paint
- Repair foundation cracks
- Improve front entrance bus loop, access road and parking with middle school
- Restore exterior building facade, masonry, glass block, metal panels and soffits
- Music suite hand rails and sound attenuation
- Replace worn plumbing fixtures
- Replace auditorium stage rigging
- Viking Mall toilet room renovations
- School store renovations
- Building-wide wireless network
- Front entrance security
- Add storage for P.E.
- Add safety fencing at baseball field
- Upgrade security system/video surveillance
- Replace gym wall pads and bleachers
- Replace sound system for main gym and pool
- Improve pool acoustics, doors and tile floors

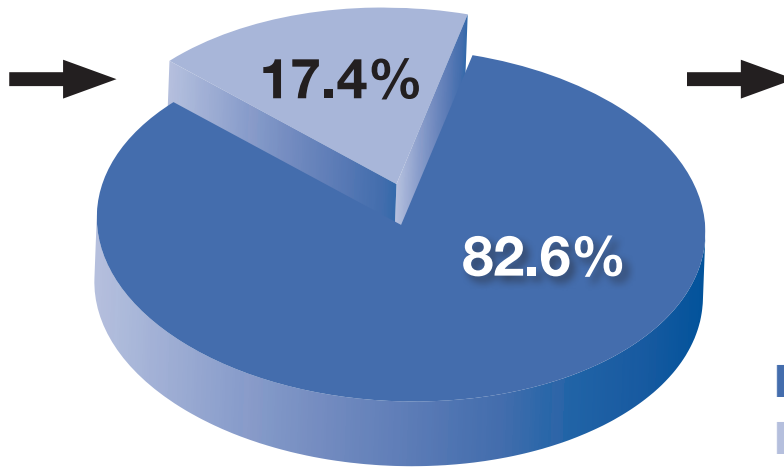


Proposition #2 - \$4,600,000

PROJECT FINANCING

Proposition 2:

Referendum
Value:
\$4,600,000



The 17.4%
local tax rate
results in a
2/10 of 1%
tax increase

■ State Building Aid
■ Local Tax Rate

SUMMARY SCOPE OF WORK

High School Auditorium\$1,900,000

- Replace house & theatrical lighting and stage dimming board system
- Replace sound system
- Replace stage curtains and drapes
- Sound attenuation and paint
- Replace seating with ADA compliance
- Replace flooring
- New overhead door access
- New HVAC
- Operational stage access from house

Football / soccer / lacrosse field and 8-lane track.....\$2,700,000

- Add multi-purpose turf game field
- Remove existing track and reconfigure to 8-lane track in lieu of Prop 1 work
- Game field lighting
- Security fencing
- New sound system
- New scoreboard

PROJECTED ANNUAL TAX INCREASE

Full Value Home	Assessed Value	Prop 2 Increase
\$50,000.00	\$26,750.00	\$2.13
\$100,000.00	\$53,500.00	\$4.26
\$150,000.00	\$80,250.00	\$6.39
\$200,000.00	\$107,000.00	\$8.52
Assessed Value Home	Full Value Home	Prop 2 Increase
\$50,000.00	\$93,457.94	\$3.98
\$100,000.00	\$186,915.89	\$7.97
\$150,000.00	\$280,373.83	\$11.95
\$200,000.00	\$373,831.78	\$15.94

**using AV rate increase of .07968 per \$1000 of assessed valuation
(2011-12 AV rate = \$39.84 times 2/10 = .07968)

BOND PROPOSITION NO. 2

RESOLVED:

(a) **THAT IN THE EVENT BOND PROPOSITION NO. 1 IS APPROVED**, the Board of Education of the Grand Island Central School District, in the County of Erie, New York (the "District") is hereby further authorized to construct improvements to the Middle School/High School buildings and campus, and to expend therefor not to exceed \$4,600,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the amount of not to exceed \$4,600,000 to finance such cost, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$4,600,000 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable; and (d) **that if this BOND PROPOSITION NO. 2 is approved, it shall become effective only in the event that BOND PROPOSITION NO. 1 is approved.**

YES

NO



DEFINITIONS:

Understanding Property Tax

Here are a few definitions of frequently used terms to help make sense of property taxes.

PROPERTY TAX - Revenues received through the tax of district property. The calculation of property tax is computed by a process, which takes the assessed value multiplied by the assigned state equalization rate (full value). The levy is proportionately assigned to the full value amount.

PROPERTY TAX DEFINITIONS:

ASSESSED VALUATION - The official valuation of property for the purpose of taxation. The assessors of the district determine the valuation.

EQUALIZATION RATE - The ratio of assessed valuation to the full valuation of a city or town. The New York State Division of Equalization and Assessment determines the equalization rate. For example, an equalization rate of .50 would indicate that the local assessor is assessing real property at 50 percent of what is determined by the Division of Equalization and Assessment to be the full value of such real property.

EXEMPTION - A release from the obligation of having to pay taxes on all or part of the assessed value of a parcel of real property. When an exemption is granted, the rest of the owners of taxable property in the taxing unit must pay the taxes, which would otherwise have been paid by the exempt property.

FULL VALUATION - (also True Actual or Market Valuation) - The current markets value appraisal or estimate of what a property would sell for in a transaction between a willing buyer and a willing seller. The term is also applied to the result of dividing the assessed valuation by the equalization rate established by the New York State Division of Equalization and Assessment for the city or town(s) in which the school district is located.

TAX LEVY - The total dollar amount to be raised by property tax.



FAQ's

continued

If the 1st proposition doesn't pass, can the 2nd proposition pass?

No. Proposition 2 is contingent on Proposition 1 passing.

The State of New York is threatening to cut school aid. How will this affect the project?

Typically, Building Aid has not been cut primarily because it does not solve the short term revenue issues experienced by the State of New York. However, for the first time in years, the State looks to be seriously considering a restructuring of their building aid formula. Any negative change would reduce the amount that is provided to the District for any capital building project.

We have been told by the State Education Department that, if changes are made, they would likely be enacted in 2012. By planning this project throughout 2011 and voting on December 20th, we are taking full advantage of the reimbursement formula by locking in our current aid rate to maximize every dollar given to us by the state of New York.

Would a possible future property reassessment affect this project?

No. A reassessment would not affect the proposed capital project but it may affect your property tax. For further information about reassessments, visit our website at www.k12.ginet.org - proposed capital project 2011. Here you will find a link to the publications titled *Reassessment Frequently Asked Questions* and *Fair Assessments - A Guide for Property Owners*. Both were provided by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Office of Real Property Tax Service.



Grand Island

Central School District

1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, NY 14072

www.k12.ginet.org

Board of Education

David Goris, President

Tak Nobumoto, Vice President

Glenn J. Bobeck

Emily Ciraolo

Joan Droit

Paul Krull

Donna Tomkins

Superintendent

Robert W. Christmann

Resident



Non-profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 8
Grand Island, N.Y.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION • OUR BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

Grand Island Schools 2011-2012 Capital Project Vote

Tuesday, December 20, 2011 • 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Grand Island High School Gym: 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Voter Identification Required (no pre-registration required)



Stay Informed!

Where can you learn more about the Proposed Capital Project?

Visit our website: www.k12.ginet.org

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/gicapitalproject

Contact a Board of Education Official or your Superintendent

President: David Goris - davidgoris@k12.ginet.org

Vice President: Tak Nobumoto - taknobumoto@k12.ginet.org

Superintendent: Robert W. Christmann - robertchristmann@k12.ginet.org

