

### **Why is construction work going on during the school closure and will it impact next year's budget?**

The work being done on the buildings for the capital project is deemed essential as much of the work involves safety and security for our students, staff and faculty.

The money for the capital project comes from a separate source of funding and does in no way impact our school's general budget for the 20-21 school year (separate sources).

### **How did the district decide what work to include in the project?**

Every public school district in New York state is required to undertake a building condition survey every five years. In 2015, the district worked with architects at Hunt EAS to conduct the mandated survey, which identified several areas of need, including those listed in this proposed project.

### **We vote on a school budget every year. Why can't the district use that money to pay for these improvements?**

Just like a home, school facilities need regular attention and upkeep to continue to operate year after year as originally intended. The cost of keeping up with the daily wear and tear caused by hundreds of students, staff and visitors, year after year, can rise above and beyond what the annual school budget can support. Capital improvement projects are a way for school districts to complete a larger amount of facilities work sooner than otherwise possible within the scope of the annual school budget.

### **Wouldn't it have been better for the district to include additional funds in its annual budget each year to complete this work?**

When expenditures for improvements and major repairs are paid for from the general budget fund, they are not eligible for any reimbursement from the state. When integrated in a capital project, the state reimburses Moravia at a rate of 83 percent for the same improvements and repairs. A capital project with state building aid allows the district to be fiscally responsible while protecting the community's investment in our schools.

The general fund budget always includes allocations for routine repairs and maintenance. However, the proposed capital project looks beyond mandated repairs and upgrades to address major infrastructure needs that protect the community's longterm investment in our school facilities and their ability to meet instructional needs for the 21st century. The district could defer some of the proposed capital project work, but the delay could result in more serious and costly infrastructure issues and greater disruption to instructional time and student achievement.

### **How can \$11.5 million in improvements result in no new taxes?**

By the time the district will need to start paying for this proposed project, it will have paid off a bond that financed previous capital improvements. Because state aid calculations are partially based upon the amount of a district's debt, being in debt is actually fiscally healthy for a school district. So the district proposes to replace one debt package with another to increase state aid and also utilize money in its capital reserve fund to ease the tax impact on residents.

**When would the capital project work expected to be completed?**

The work began in spring 2020 and would be completed by late 2020/early 2021.