

PUTNAM VALLEY

Capital Project and Winter Newsletter 2025



Proposed Elementary School Renovations and District-Wide Infrastructure Upgrades

Dear Putnam Valley Community:

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2025!

Inside this newsletter you will find highlights of how our District is strengthening connections within our community and creating meaningful opportunities for our students. We are also providing key details about the upcoming capital project vote focused on infrastructure needs and upgrades.

For more than a year, the Capital Improvement and Facilities Planning Committee composed of community members, teachers, parents, support staff, and administrators worked diligently reviewing documents, touring buildings, and meeting with architects and financial advisors before deciding on a scope of work that will be presented for voter approval on Tuesday, January 28.

The committee remained dedicated to proposing a project that addressed critical infrastructure needs, improved academic spaces, addressed the needs of our cultural arts and athletics program, and offered the District long-term savings through the implementation of sustainable energy sources (solar & geothermal); all at no additional cost to the taxpayer. To ensure a tax-neutral proposal, the District will use \$2.5M of District capital reserve funds and strategically replace retiring debt. The total principal cost of the project cannot exceed \$14M. In addition, based on our current building aid ratio, the District expects to receive approximately \$9.2M in state aid.

Current estimates provided by the District's architects project an 18-month design, approval, award, and mobilization timeline. The work must begin in the summer of 2026 to capitalize on the funding opportunities that allow this project to be completed without raising taxes. Therefore, a vote date in the winter of 2025 was necessary to meet our anticipated start date while minimizing the project's impact on our students and staff. This approach, at this time, ensures the project is fully funded without adding a tax burden on the community.

We hope the information provided will help you cast an informed vote on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. The polls will be open from 6 am - 9 pm at Putnam Valley Elementary School.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together we are building a foundation for the future.

Thank you,
Dr. Jeremy Luft
Superintendent of Schools

WINTER 2025

PROJECT TOTAL:

Maximum Project Cost

- Retiring Debt
- Capital Reserve Funds

**= NO ADDITIONAL COST
TO TAXPAYERS**

Project timing minimizes impact to taxpayer and student instructional time

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Vote: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Design: 2/2025 - 9/2025

NYSED Permitting: 10/2025 - 1/2026

Bids/Contract Awards: 2/2026 - 4/2026

Construction Start: Summer 2026

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pvcسد.org

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Absentee and Early Voting Ballots and all voter information available at: pvcسد.org or by contacting the District Office at 845-528-8143 x1367

BOND PROPOSAL

VOTE

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

6 AM - 9 PM ★ Putnam Valley Elementary School
171 Oscawana Lake Road

Project Highlights

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student Learning Commons

- Renovate existing library into modern innovative learning space

Playground

- Install new, age appropriate playground for younger grades (K-2)
- Provide an accessible space for all students
- Create new outdoor learning areas for students

Geothermal

- Complete integration of geothermal heating and cooling
- Avoid costly replacement of existing boilers
- Reduce energy costs and eliminate dependency on heating oil

Performing Arts

- New lighting and controls

Nurse's Suite

- Expand nurse's suite to accommodate student needs (last renovated 1972)
- Upgrade air filtration and air quality
- Create isolation space for students who need to be separated

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parking Lot

- New subsurface and pavement
- Improve pedestrian safety
- Install new lighting

- Dedicated bus lane
- New sidewalks
- Improve drainage and water management

Instructional Spaces

- New small group instructional spaces and offices
- Create new classroom instructional spaces

Performing Arts

- New lighting and controls

HVAC

- Replace and/or upgrade heat pumps

HIGH SCHOOL

Parking Lot

- Replace retaining wall
- New subsurface and pavement
- Improve drainage and water management

Accessibility

- Improve access to courtyard and outdoor learning space

Solar Power

- Install solar panels on roof of the Wellness Center

Roofing

- Replace original flat roofs (installed 2000)

Fitness Center/Dance Studio

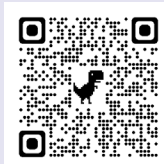
- Update weight room to accommodate student needs including IB Dance Class

Five Fast Financial Facts FACILITIES PROJECT

- 1. (The Project will Not Increase Taxes)** - The timing of this project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to address infrastructure needs while protecting the District's long-term financial stability. Reinvesting our existing debt into this new project, in this time frame, completes the needed improvements without causing an increase in taxes.
- 2. (The Project Cannot Exceed Budgeted Amount)** - Project costs cannot exceed the approved amount. Detailed budgeting, including possible escalation costs were all considered when developing the scope of the project. Under no circumstance can the project exceed the approved amount.
- 3. (The Project is Tax Neutral and will Stabilize Local Taxpayer Share of Tax)** - The District is approaching final payoff of debt from prior capital projects. As older debt payments drop off, comparable new debt payments replace these, the result: the local taxpayer share is projected to be tax neutral. Since the enactment of the tax cap law, Putnam Valley CSD has never gone over the tax cap and for many years presented a budget that was lower than the tax cap.
- 4. (State Aid Will Reduce Cost to Taxpayer)** - The New York State Education Department will subsidize a portion of the project through state aid. Based on our current building aid ratio, we anticipate NYS Building Aid will cover approximately \$9.2 million of the principal project costs.
- 5. (The Project Protects Programs and Saves Money)** - If we do not address our infrastructure needs within the proposed facilities project, these items will need to be funded through our general operating budget, they may not be eligible for any state aid, and will leave these projects competing with our instructional programs for a very limited amount of funding.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- ☑ Identified unique financial opportunity
- ☑ Reviewed 5-year capital plan
- ☑ Reviewed district-wide needs (Fall 2022)
- ☑ Convened a facilities planning committee (via an open invitation to all members of our community) (Spring 2023)
- ☑ Committee reviewed and prioritized District needs (Spring 2023 - Fall 2024)
- ☑ Our Business Official and External Municipal Financial Advisor established a budget (\$14M) that would NOT increase taxes
- ☑ Developed scope of project with District's architects
- ☑ Presented proposed project at public events (June 20, 2024; October 29, 2024; December 12, 2024)
- ☑ Board Resolution approved (November 2024)
- **Vote January 28, 2025 (PVES 6 AM - 9 PM)**
- **Construction timeline: Summer 2026 - Fall 2027**



PVCS D Food Drives Support Families In Need

Thank you, Putnam Valley community for your incredible generosity this Thanksgiving season! Our students and staff organized food drives across our schools to support the Putnam Valley Food Pantry. Together, we make a difference and help spread gratitude and kindness.



Hall of Fame Nominations

The Putnam Valley Athletic Hall of Fame Committee invites all members of the Putnam Valley community to nominate eligible candidates. This award honors those whose on-field performance, leadership, contributions, and character exemplify outstanding achievement in their sport and/or service to the athletic program.



Don't Miss the Spring Musical - Legally Blonde

PVHS TheatreWorks will present the musical *Legally Blonde* on April 26, 27 and 28. Mark your calendars and treat yourself to a great show right here in our town.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the fall production of *Girls In The Boat!*



PVCS D Celebrates All First Responders!

Thanks to our wonderful community support, our First Responder events were spectacular! We are grateful for your time speaking with our students, sharing about your careers, teaching about safety, and providing your community with an opportunity to celebrate you and say THANK YOU!



A Night of Gratitude PVHS Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted its 9th annual Gratitude Festival, celebrating student voice, music, and art. This special evening provided an opportunity to express gratitude with friends and family. It was an unforgettable night.



Innovation Lab Balloon Parade

4th Graders read *Balloons Over Broadway* and learned all about how STEM Master and Engineer Tony Sarg helped to create the ideas behind Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Following the Engineering Design Process, they imagined, planned, and designed their own balloon prototype.





PUTNAM VALLEY
Central School District
171 Oscawana Lake Road
Putnam Valley, NY 10579

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SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Jeremy Luft

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www.pvcsd.org



International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP)

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) is a framework for learning and discovery that supports students in engaging in rigorous academics and embracing challenges with an open mind and a willingness to take productive risks. MYP is for all students aged 11-16 and PVMS offers this four-year program to students in grades 5 through 8. The MYP curriculum framework comprises eight subject groups: Language Acquisition, Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Design, and Physical & Health Education. It is through these subject groups that students are provided a broad and balanced education. Students are explicitly taught to think about how they learn and the process of learning. For more information please visit pvcsd.org.

Phonemic Awareness at PVES

Mrs. Kristan McCarty and a wonderful group of first-grade students shared components of our Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program at a recent Board of Education meeting.

Now an integral part of our K-2 classrooms, this program provides students with engaging, hands-on learning opportunities through movement, touch, and digital interactions. These activities accommodate diverse learning styles and boost skill retention. Phonemic Awareness helps students build important reading skills, like hearing letter sounds in words, vowel sounds, the beginnings and endings of words, and rhyming sounds. These literacy components are directly in line with the Science of Reading, and they help to enrich our strong Scholastic Literacy Program and Foundations teaching. We look forward to continued growth in literacy throughout the year!



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