

Questions Regarding Elementary School Construction and Property Acquisition

John Murtari <jmurtari@gmail.com>

Aug 14, 2026, 1:54 PM (4 days ago)

to Martha, Lisa, zaunkst, Bob, Randy, Crystal, mbookmiller, bcc: John

Ms. Bailey,

Regarding the construction behind our Elementary School, I went to the County Clerk's office and obtained the filed documents concerning the transfer of the property from the Church to the School, all of which are dated December 2024. I also reviewed the agenda materials posted on the School District website.

After that review and hearing from folks in the community, I have several questions and hope you can help clarify them.

- **School rationale to label all this new work as just an "update" to the original plan?**

The community voted on the Capital Improvement Project in August 2023. I reviewed the proposal, and found no mention of this additional work. In fact, the District did not yet own the property.

Based on estimates I've heard, the additional construction could be in the range of \$5–\$10 million. It also represents a significant change to the use of the property and has had a substantial impact on the surrounding community.

- **Did the Board Members have sufficient information to vote?**

While voting to approve this as an 'update', it appears most of the Board Members were not aware of the full scope of the work to be done. They were as surprised as community members. I emailed every board member last month regarding what they knew. Not a single reply to that question (including yours).

- **Justification for this large change not brought for approval to the district voters?**

I've been reviewing New York State Education Law and have questions about the process used, both for making this significant change to the Capital Improvement Project and for the District's acquisition of land.

I would appreciate your understanding of how the District determined that the additional work could be approved as an update rather than being presented to the voters.

- **Who were the donors of money used by the school for the purchase, and what was the wording of the agreement with them?**

The resolution from the Sep 2024 Board meeting mentions, "... donors have provided to the District a written offer to gift One Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five and 90/100 Dollars ..."

For public transparency, and to avoid potential concerns about conflict of interest, it seems important to identify these people/corporations and the terms.

- **Did the Board see a blueprint of the proposed changes as part of the update? Consider impact on elderly parishioner at St. Michael's Catholic Church?**

I attend St. Michael's. We were given the impression the parking would be "preserved." It appears the construction will move most of it 20-30 yards farther away. More curb obstacles and winter snow/ice could make things difficult.

- **The original Capital Plan was for \$50 million. The new construction work, bus loop/parking, is significant and likely in the \$5-\$10 million dollar range. How is that being paid for?**

The board approved an update to include the bus loop/parking as additional work, but I didn't notice what was being reduced in the other expenditures approved by voters?

I look forward to a timely response. If you can't answer from your personal knowledge or legal guidance may delay things, please let me know.