

## NEWS

Posted Saturday March 15, 2008

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### O-A project hearing set for Monday

By [George Basler](#)  
Press & Sun-Bulletin

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OWEGO -- Residents in the Owego-Apalachin Central School District will have a chance Monday to hear the details of a proposed \$13.6 million building project that would upgrade classrooms and conserve energy in the district's schools.

Much of the project focuses on school buildings' maintenance needs, said school board President David Barton. This includes installing a new roof at Owego Free Academy and repairing the parking lots and sidewalks at the high school and Owego Elementary School, he said.

Monday's public hearing is set for 7 p.m. in the Owego Free Academy cafeteria. The public vote on the project is scheduled for March 25.

The school district developed the project during the past 1 1/2 years, working with Highland Associates, an architectural firm based in Clarks Summit, Pa., said Superintendent William Russell.

"It's a huge undertaking, but it's a necessary one," he said. The three school district buildings date from the mid-1960s and early 1970s, and need to be renovated, he said.

While large, the project will not require additional taxes, Russell said. Instead, the cost will be covered by a combination of state building aid, state EXCEL aid and money for a capital reserve fund approved by district residents last spring, he said.

Main parts of the project include:

- \* Creating "smart classrooms" in the district's three school buildings. This work focuses on installing interactive white boards, called SMART Boards.
- \* Installing lights on athletic fields.
- \* Upgrading energy systems, including installing thermopane windows at Owego Elementary School and Apalachin Elementary School, upgrading the heating plant at Apalachin Elementary and installing digital control energy management systems for heating, air conditioning and ventilation.
- \* Remodeling bathrooms to make them more accessible to people with disabilities.
- \* Remodeling boys' and girls' locker rooms at Owego Free Academy.
- \* Building a new playground at Owego Elementary School.

The March 25 vote will take place from noon to 9 p.m. in the Owego and Apalachin elementary schools. If voters approve the project, district officials hope to begin work during the 2009 construction season.

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right, night... who needs functional school buildings anyway? Let's let them fall into disrepair so the state can come in & fine the district - that would make SO much more sense.....

Posted by: **heavenly sue** on Sat Mar 15, 2008 12:45 pm

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Vote it down!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Posted by: **nighthawk** on Sat Mar 15, 2008 7:35 am

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