

Somerdale Park School District Referendum

301 Grace Street, Somerdale, NJ 08083

A referendum vote on October 2, 2018 will seek approval to replace aged roofing to maintain our building and expand parking to enable us to better serve the community.

What Improvements are planned?

Roofing

The roofing on the school is aged and deteriorating which has resulted in water leaks into the building. As the roofing continues to age these conditions will worsen. The district is seeking to replace the existing roof before deterioration can further impact our students and instruction.

Parking

With limited parking at the school, access to the facility for daily use and special events is challenging. The Board is seeking to improve access to the school with the creation of an additional parking area in the rear of the building with Chestnut Street access.

Play Area Improvements

Existing playground upgrades will be provided to improve current conditions and an additional play area will be constructed so elementary and middle school children will have their own play areas.

Why now?

Urgent Need

Prudent facility management has stretched the life of the roof despite its condition; however, action is needed to avoid potential impact on school operations.

Careful planning to minimize costs

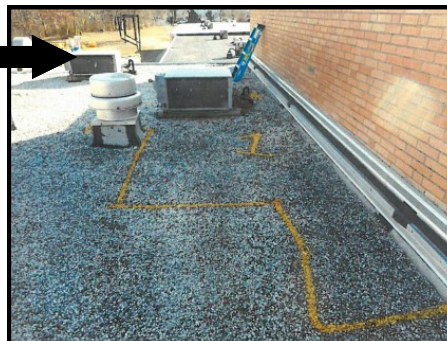
The plan for undertaking these improvements has been considered carefully to minimize costs; timing the referendum with the retiring of prior district debt.

If the referendum passes, nearly 54.7% of costs for roofing replacement should be offset by funding from the NJ Department of Education, significantly reducing the costs to Somerdale taxpayers! We have applied for this State funding and await approval.

This debt service funding from the State can ONLY be captured to reduce costs if the referendum is approved!

Existing Roof

Images of the existing roof to the right show areas of wet insulation identified. These are examples of roof areas where water continues to penetrate the roof and can leak into the building



When is the Referendum?

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018 • Vote!

Information

For additional and updated information at any time, please contact:

Mr. Mark Pease, Superintendent

301 Grace Street,
Somerdale, NJ, 08083.

(856) 783-6261 ext. 801

www.somerdale-park.org

We will continue to update the public throughout the process. Please join us at the upcoming events:

8/8/18 Summer Concert; Cooper Towne Center 6:30 pm

8/9/18 Board Meeting; Somerdale Park School 6:30 pm

8/15/18 Summer Concert; Cooper Towne Center 6:30 pm

8/22/18 Summer Concert; Cooper Towne Center 6:30 pm

8/29/18 Summer Concert; Cooper Towne Center 6:30 pm

What is a referendum?

New Jersey school districts hold referendum votes for approval of funding to maintain and upgrade school facilities. If approved this funding can *ONLY* be used for its approved purpose.

Why undertake these improvements now?

The replacement of the roof is necessary to maintain the operation of the school. Construction and financing costs are favorable and State debt service funding is available *now* to reduce the cost to Somerdale taxpayers!

What are the estimated costs of the Referendum?

The improvements have been approved by the NJ Department of Education. State debt service aid funding has been approved for the portion of the project eligible to receive State aid. If the referendum passes, the district will receive 54.7% State aid on \$2,150,184 of the total project budget which is \$3,157,600. The anticipated tax impact of these improvements will be assessed and shared once available.

If we are eligible for State funding, why is a referendum needed?

While the district will be eligible for State debt service aid funding, the district *can only claim this State funding if the referendum passes and the local share of the costs are approved by voters.*

Is Tax Relief Available for Senior Citizens?

Senior citizens, age 65 and older (or qualifying disabled residents), may be eligible for tax relief. To determine if you qualify for NJ Property Tax Relief Programs, contact NJ State Treasury at 1-800-822-6597 or visit their website at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation for information.

