

QUOGUE UFSD

PLAYGROUND RENOVATION PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Why is the playground being prioritized over other projects?

- There is a large amount of deferred maintenance to be accomplished over the next several years.
- The playground structures and playground surfaces being replaced are approximately 20 years old and in poor condition.
- Of the work that is needed at the school, the playground benefits all community members (not just families who have children at the school), as it is open to the public everyday outside of school hours and throughout the summer.
- Regarding other capital projects, the District is working with its architects to prioritize future improvements which are identified in a recently completed Building Conditions Report as required by the NYS Education Department.

What is the balance in the Capital Reserve Fund? Is that all there is for contingencies?

- The current balance of the capital reserve fund is \$1,206,318.
- The current balance of the repair reserve fund is \$272,076; repair reserve funds may be used to pay for the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.

The flyer says no taxpayer money will be used, but how is the capital reserve funded in the first place? Isn't that through tax dollars? So if it is expended won't it need to be replenished by tax dollars? If the fund is too large and has no good use then can't we just lower taxes in the future?

- Yes; taxpayer money comprises approximately 85% of the district's revenue.
- Reserve funds are typically accumulated over time via the transfer of unexpended fund balance during budget years when revenues exceed expenses.
- In most instances, two methods exist by which a school district may fund capital projects.
 - By using monies that have been reserved for said purposes
 - Issuance of a municipal bond(s)
- Use of reserves, as in the case of the playground, will not add debt service to the budget. It is for this reason that the flyer states "**No Additional Cost to Taxpayers.**"
- If the project was funded via municipal bond, the debt service would be added to the annual operating budget.

Why is the vote being held on March 29?

- NYS Education Department approval is required for most capital projects undertaken by school districts. A funding source must be designated in order to file for State Education Department Approval which can take several months.
- The vote on March 29 is to approve the use of capital reserve funds for the playground so that the project can be submitted to the State Education Department for review and approval. This is simply the next step in the process.

Why hasn't the community been made aware of this information?

- The playground has been discussed during several Board of Education meetings this year.
- All BOE meetings are open to the public, the dates and times of which are posted on the District's website and on the sign in the front of the school.
- Board of Education meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the District's website.
- An informational brochure was mailed to every post office box in Quogue on March 9, almost three weeks prior to the vote.

How does the school district communicate information to the general public?

The mechanisms through which a public school district may communicate information to the general public are as follows:

- The publication of legal notices in the District's designated newspapers
 - Southampton Press Western Edition
 - Long Island Business News
 - Newsday, Suffolk County Edition
- The publication of legal notices and general information on the District's website
- The posting of legal notices and general information in public areas (e.g., library, post office, sign in front of the school, etc.)
- Mailing information to each PO Box at the Quogue Post Office
- Monthly Board of Education Meetings that are open to the public.
 - Board of Education meetings are business meetings during which time the Board of Education votes on items that require Board approval.
 - The public is entitled to attend Board of Education meetings for the purpose of observing the Board of Education conducting its business.
 - Public Notice of the time and place of Board of Education Meeting is provided on the District's website and on the sign in the front of the school.
- Social Media Pages

Why will the playground cost almost \$900,000?

- Below is a detail of estimated expenses as per the District's architects. The cost of services and equipment for public school districts typically exceed that of residential work due to numerous requirements prescribed by the NYS Education Department.

Playground Equipment	\$217,806	24%
Safety Surfacing (Turf & Fibar)	\$198,000	22%
Architectural Fees, Soft Costs, Contingencies	\$190,000	21%
Playground Equipment Installation	\$104,000	12%
Concrete Curbs and Nailers	\$48,000	5%
Demolition & Removals	\$39,000	4%
Concrete Sidewalks	\$34,000	4%
Drainage Improvement	\$24,000	3%
Site Amenities	\$18,000	2%
Decorative Pavers	\$12,000	1%
Landscaping & Grass	\$10,000	1%
	\$895,000	100%