

Heritage Middle School

The Livingston Board of Education approved a referendum to make facility upgrades to the elementary and middle schools. On December 8th a special election will be held and the polls will be open from 1 p.m. until 9 p.m.

If approved, Heritage Middle School would receive the following facility upgrades:

Air Quality and Temperature Control

- ✓ Replacement of all single pane windows in classrooms, offices and the media center. This means that when the heat is on because it is below freezing outside, the warmth of the rooms would not escape through the windows.
- ✓ The heating system would be replaced and cooling system would be added to all classrooms, media center, cafeteria, office wing and auditorium. This means that students, faculty and staff would be comfortable all year and would not have to rely on the energy inefficiencies and noise of window units. Above-adequate amounts of fresh air would be filtered into the building. This would provide great benefits for students with seasonal allergies and asthma.
- ✓ Automatic temperature control would be installed. This means that students would not experience over or under heating in the winter and would be comfortable in the warmer months leading to a more productive learning environment. The air quality in the classrooms would be improved and energy would be saved after hours and when a room is not occupied.

Safety

- ✓ 29,500 square feet of roofing would be replaced. The roof at Heritage Middle School is beyond its life expectancy. It is suspected that the roof could begin to leak and would need to be replaced in the near future.
- ✓ Interior doors would be replaced with fire resistant doors. When the current doors were installed they were considered "up to code" in terms of fire resistance. However, they are no longer considered "up to code" and newer fire resistant doors would, in the event of a fire, help to contain a fire in a particular location or keep a fire from spreading rapidly.
- ✓ Stair wells would be repaired. Non-slip treads and railings would be replaced to ensure student and staff safety.

ADA

- ✓ Restrooms would be renovated to be ADA compliant per current code. This means that students using wheel chairs or crutches or who have any other disability would not be faced with the difficulties of maneuvering through narrow spaces and would have the benefit of accommodating technology for faucets and flushing. Handle bars would also be installed for safety.

Auditorium

- ✓ The auditorium, and systems that support it, include original equipment. The auditorium, which not only serves the school, but the community at large, would receive a new sound system, stage lighting and seats. The stage would be refurbished.

The December 8th special election will also include a separate question seeking voter approval for the installation of solar panels on ALL school roofs.

If approved, Heritage Middle School would receive the following:

Solar*

- ✓ Solar panels would be installed on the roof of Heritage Middle School with the ability to generate 116.2 kilowatts. Solar panels would provide long term energy cost savings while generating revenue. Heritage Middle School would use the electricity generated by the solar panels instead of having to purchase the same electricity from a utility company ultimately saving money. The solar panels would reduce energy use and would help improve the environment.

***There will be two questions on the December 8th ballot. The first question will ask voters to approve the facility upgrades. The second question will ask voters to approve the solar panels. In order to approve the solar panels (question #2), the facility upgrades (question #1) must also be approved. Why? Because it is not fiscally responsible to put solar panels on roofs that will need to be replaced in the very near future.**