Facilities studies have concluded that our three aging elementary schools would only become much more expensive to maintain and remain functional in coming years. Instead of spending taxpayer dollars on three elementary school facilities that all require significant improvements to remain usable, the TONA2020 committee has unanimously recommended an elementary school consolidation project. This plan will address our increasing facility needs and allow our district to improve and advance our educational programs, provide necessary services, and meet the needs of all students in a permanent tax cap era.

The plan we are proposing would close the Mullen and Riverview elementary schools and include a significant school upgrade at Fletcher Elementary. This plan ensures that all elementary students would benefit from increased and improved space in a 21st Century educational facility.

The time is now neighbors! Student achievement and safety is our focus. This is a challenging time to be proposing this type of work. However, providing this proactive plan for the future is the best way to achieve the goals of this project: being responsible to taxpayers, investing in student learning, and paving the way for future sustainability in a conservative manner. We hope you will agree that this work is essential to the program and needed for our students, our district, and our community.

There is a great story to be told and exciting improvements are on the horizon for all of our children. Capital projects like this one help our facilities continue to serve as an outstanding community resource and to improve the conditions under which our children work, learn, and grow. We encourage you to review this information, attend upcoming public information meetings, and learn more about the project on our website. The Tonawanda City School District and the Board of Education thank you for your continued involvement in our future.

We now need and appreciate your vote on October 22, 2019.

Detailed information about the proposed TONA2020 project is available through the following resources:

- **In your mailbox:** An informational newsletter will be mailed to all district households in September
- **In the community:** Public information meetings with opportunities to learn more about the project and ask questions will be held on the dates listed above
- **Online:** www.tonawandacsd.org

On October 22, 2019, residents of the Tonawanda City School District will have an opportunity to vote on an Elementary School Improvement & Consolidation Project that is designed to address the final phase of the TONA2020 initiative.

The TONA2020 initiative has included purposeful research and study regarding the future of our school district. This project addresses critical facilities needs in our three elementary schools, instructional programming space, and current emerging school safety protocols. The project scope is based on a number of factors, including the New York State mandated Building Condition Survey, citing numerous reconstruction and replacement needs at all three elementary school facilities.

Project Focus
- ✔ Student Achievement and Support
- ✔ Consolidate and Improve Our Aging Facilities for Sustainability
- ✔ School Safety
- ✔ A Conservative and Responsible Vision for our Taxpayers
The Elementary School Improvement & Consolidation Project proposal is the culmination of years of planning and evaluation by a committee including district representatives, community members, and consultants. Our goal is to provide students with a 21st Century education by improving our facilities and optimizing operational efficiencies with a consolidated and modernized elementary school. This plan will provide a safe, secure, and improved learning environment for our student body through a fiscally conservative and responsible approach for our taxpayers. The work will include the following key scope items:

1. **RENOVATIONS:**
   - Art & music
   - Kitchen & cafeteria
   - Classrooms
   - Technology infrastructure
   - Roof replacement
   - Auditorium

2. **TWO-STOREY ADDITIONS:**
   - Covered entry
   - Art & music
   - Classrooms
   - Support / storage
   - Gym & locker rooms
   - Main office / health office
   - Fitness & OT / PT
   - Media center
   - STEAM classrooms
   - Restrooms

3. **NEW EXPANDED BUS LOOP**

4. **NEW STAFF PARKING, VISITOR PARKING, AND PARENT DROP-OFF LOOP**

5. **DUAL MAIN ENTRY TO MAIN OFFICE AREA**
   - Secure student entrance (walkers / busers)
   - Secure student / visitors entrance (student walkers and vehicle drop-off)

6. **NEW PLAY FIELD AREA**

7. **NEW PRIMARY AGE PLAYGROUND (ADA ACCESSIBLE)**

8. **NEW INTERMEDIATE AGE PLAYGROUND (ADA ACCESSIBLE)**

9. **RECEIVING AND DELIVERIES**

10. **AREAS TO BE DEMOLISHED**

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**Project Financing**

The Elementary School Improvement & Consolidation Project would be funded mainly by available State Building Aid, including a one-time additional cost allowance allocation of $12.9 million to be provided by the State Education Department, and available District funds. The remaining “local share” would be financed through the local tax levy. To pass, the proposed project must be approved by 60% or more of the eligible voters at the time of the vote.

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**Total Project Cost:**

$53,469,266

**Remaining Local Share:**

State Building Aid 61%

District Funds 11%

Local Share 28%