

SOUTH JERSEY

Palmyra school project would upgrade facilities, increase property tax



[Jim Walsh](#)

Cherry Hill Courier-Post

PALMYRA - The school district is seeking voter approval for an \$18.4 million improvement program.

The project would spend \$10.5 million to upgrade the district high school and middle school on West 5th Street.

It would budget \$7.9 million for improvements to the Charles Street Elementary School, according to the district's website.

The website includes a ["Referendum Video Campaign"](#) with district officials discussing the desired changes.



"These buildings are older buildings and they're beginning to show their age," Interim Superintendent Mark Pease notes in one video.

"It's time that we make the investment in improving these buildings," he says. "Our students deserve it. Our community deserves it, and so do our staff."

If approved by voters, the project would boost property taxes by \$284.90 per year for an average home assessed at \$148,497, [according to the district's website](#).

That would cover payments on a 20-year bond for a local share of \$11.5 million. State aid would cover about \$6.9 million.

In-person voting will take place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on March 12 at the Palmyra Community Center, 30 West Broad Street.

Among other changes, the project would add four classrooms at the current site of the main office and guidance office at Palmyra High School/Middle School, according to the district's website.

It would renovate the auxiliary gym, known as The Pit, and would install a non-cinder running track outside the school.

The auditorium also would receive a new sound system, improved lighting, and a sloping floor as part of a \$10.5 million package at the high school/middle school.

Changes at the Charles Street Elementary School would include new roofing, a security vestibule at a new main entrance, and a \$280,000 upgrade for the playground.

Total costs for the elementary school are expected to be \$7.9 million.