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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rye City School District Board Approves Resolution to Place \$79.99 Million Capital Bond Before Voters on March 12

*Plan would invest in aging buildings and make them healthier, more secure,
and designed to support current best instructional practices.*

Rye, NY (January 9, 2019) -- The Rye City School District Board of Education has unanimously approved a resolution to put a \$79.99 million capital bond referendum before voters on March 12.

The 30-year bond would fund investment in the District's five aging buildings, renovating outdated spaces into well-ventilated, secure educational spaces designed to support current best instructional practices while preparing students for success in a rapidly evolving economy.

The estimated 30-year average tax increase for residents with a house with an assessed value of \$26,600 (an approximate \$1,689,000 market value) is about \$3.23 per month.

"As part of *The Rye Commitment*, the administration and Board have spent the last few years charting the strategic direction necessary to continue to support the delivery of an outstanding education to all students in the Rye City School District," said Superintendent Dr. Eric Byrne. "Vital repairs can no longer be put off and we should take the opportunity to thoughtfully renovate our spaces to meet the changing needs of students."

Districtwide, the capital project will address repairs identified by the New York State-required Building Condition Survey. All five buildings will receive secure vestibule-style entrances and updated fresh air ventilation, heating and cooling

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systems in select areas. In addition, outdated libraries will be renovated into learning commons which will enable students to collaborate while using updated technology.

At the elementary level, Osborn and Midland Schools' portable trailer classrooms will be replaced with permanent instructional spaces and dated fixed-seating auditoriums will be refurbished into flexible, variable use learning and activity spaces. Milton School's lower wing will be renovated into a District-wide special education service center.

The High School turf field and running track, used by the entire community, will be replaced and a tarp system will be installed to protect the field from periodic flooding by Blind Brook. The High School Performing Arts Center (PAC), home to numerous community events, will be renovated to better serve all students and the Rye community.

At the shared Middle and High School campus, an art, design, and engineering center will be created at the High School, replacing dated art and technology rooms. New learning innovation centers will support cross-disciplinary instruction at both the Middle and High Schools.

"The District has been producing fiscally prudent annual budgets for years while providing an outstanding educational program and increased professional development for our faculty," Dr. Byrne said. "Now, we are putting before our community a strategic capital improvement project that will address large, necessary facilities and infrastructure needs that go beyond routine maintenance, while creating flexible, innovative spaces that will enable us to provide an education that meets the needs of Rye students now and in the future."

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