



Forrestville Valley School District:

Facility Expansion Q&A

April 7, 2026

Dear Forrestville Valley Families,

The Forrestville Valley Board of Education will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at FJSHS. The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment regarding a proposal to sell bonds to fund a facility addition at FJSHS.

You are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the project and share your comments with the Board. To assist with common questions, we have prepared the following Q&A. This is a very exciting time for our District as the Board discusses new opportunities for our students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith

Superintendent

Project Planning, Details & Rationale

When did this planning begin?

The Board began this process in July 2024 during a strategic planning session with an outside facilitator who assisted in developing future goals and objectives. Since that time, the Board has held multiple facility committee meetings and regular board meetings, all of which remain open to the public.

Can you provide more details about the project?

The project consists of an approximately 16,600-square-foot addition to the east side of FJSHS, adjacent to the current boys' locker rooms and weight room. Key features include:

- **New Auxiliary Practice Gym:** Includes basketball and volleyball courts, as well as batting cages for baseball and softball.
- **Expanded Weight Room:** At 3,100 square feet, the new space will be approximately 2.5 times larger than the current area.
- **Dedicated Fitness Space:** Allocated areas for additional PE classes and cheer/dance teams.
- **Improved Access:** A new vestibule will be created to provide a clearly defined public entrance.



Why is the Board considering this project now?

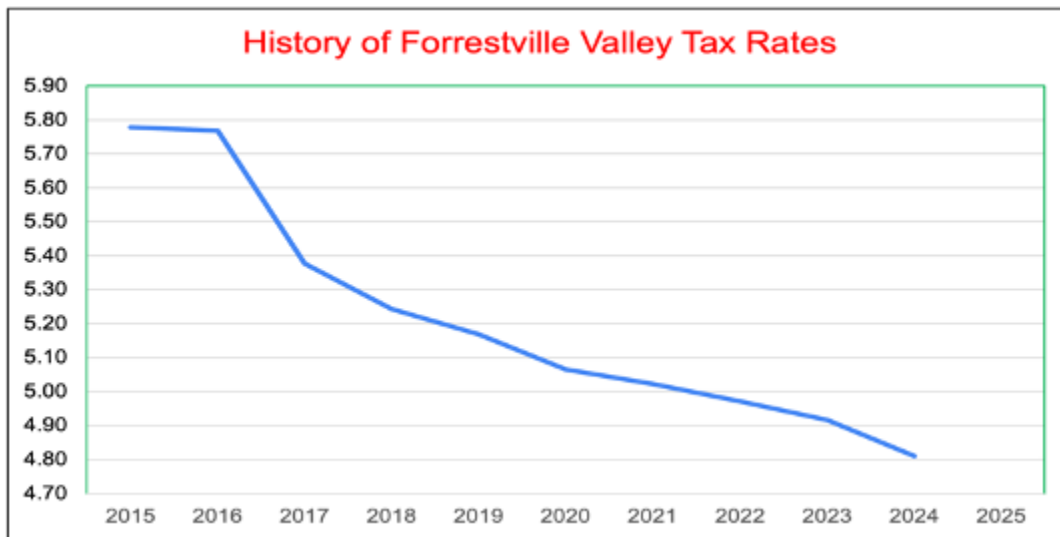
Over the last decade, the District has successfully completed approximately \$10 million in facility upgrades—including classroom renovations, HVAC and roof replacements, new flooring, and lighting—funded through life safety and working cash bonds. Because the current maintenance and operational goals have been met, the Board is in a unique position to consider a capital expansion.

Furthermore, student participation in activities as well as weight room usage remains strong. The addition of sixth-grade athletics and youth programs has increased the number of teams competing for limited gym space. This project will alleviate current congestion and improve scheduling for both the academic year and summer programs.

Fiscal Responsibility & Tax Structure

What does our current tax structure look like?

While the School Board does not control property assessed values, they do set the tax rate. **Over the last decade, the Board has lowered the tax rate by 20% overall.** The 2025 tax rate of **4.6500** will be the *lowest in 25 years*. This facility expansion will not change this current tax structure.





Forrestville Valley Tax Rates Historical Review

Fund	MAXIMUM TAX RATES ALLOWED	2015 Actual Tax Rate	2016 Actual Tax Rate	2017 Actual Tax Rate	2018 Actual Tax Rate	2019 Actual Tax Rate	2020 Actual Tax Rate	2021 Actual Tax Rate	2022 Actual Tax Rate	2023 Actual Tax Rate	2024 Actual Tax Rate	2025 FINAL Tax Rate
Education	2.43000	2.43000	2.43000	2.43000	2.43000	2.43000	2.41557	2.41669	2.43000	2.42036	2.43000	2.43000
Bond & Interest	Unlimited	1.27543	1.32148	1.05182	1.00581	0.96099	0.90947	0.87482	0.76908	0.70959	0.67423	0.61639
Operations & Maintenance	0.50000	0.50000	0.50000	0.50000	0.50000	0.50000	0.49703	0.49727	0.50000	0.49802	0.50000	0.50000
I.M.R.F.	Unlimited	0.08009	0.07894	0.05686	0.05008	0.03624	0.03432	0.03378	0.02387	0.00973	0.01106	0.01040
Transportation	0.20000	0.20000	0.20000	0.20000	0.20000	0.20000	0.19881	0.19891	0.20000	0.19921	0.20000	0.20000
Working Cash	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.04970	0.02515	0.05000	0.04981	0.01275	0.05000
Fire Safety	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.04970	0.04973	0.05000	0.04981	0.01593	0.00000
Special Education	0.04000	0.04000	0.04000	0.04000	0.04000	0.04000	0.03976	0.03979	0.04000	0.03985	0.04000	0.04000
Insurance	Unlimited	0.85986	0.86395	0.82539	0.74884	0.73627	0.71192	0.70987	0.74237	0.80815	0.82460	0.68443
Social Security	Unlimited	0.18687	0.18418	0.13056	0.12531	0.11558	0.10947	0.12554	0.12382	0.06348	0.07328	0.06884
Lease	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.05000	0.04970	0.04973	0.05000	0.04981	0.05000	0.05000
Prior Year Adjustment					-0.00638	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	-0.00781	0.00000	-0.02057	0.00000
TOTAL	#SPILL!	5.72225	5.76855	5.38463	5.24366	5.16908	5.06545	5.02128	4.97133	4.89782	4.81128	4.65006
	Difference from prior year	0.22783	0.04630	-0.38392	-0.14097	-0.07458	-0.10363	-0.14780	-0.04995	-0.07351	-0.08654	-0.16122

How does this project NOT increase our taxes?

The \$10 million budget for this project is the same amount the District has spent on smaller projects over the last decade. By utilizing the same annual bond payment structure used for previous upgrades, the amount levied for local taxes will remain the same. This allows the Board to provide new opportunities for students without increasing the current tax rate.

What is the funding structure?

The State of Illinois sets a bond limit for every school district. Currently, the District has only utilized 27% of its capacity, leaving a large unused margin. This allows the project to be completed through Board-approved funding bonds.

Academics & Project Timeline

This project focuses on athletics; what about academics?

The Forrestville Valley School District continues to prioritize academic excellence. Our schools have been recognized with "Exemplary" status by the State Board of Education, placing them in the top 10% of Illinois schools. We offer small class sizes, rigorous programs, and diverse college and career pathways.

Additionally, our students are fortunate to receive the Max Wenzel Education Scholarship, which provides one year of free tuition for every Forreston graduate at seven Illinois partner universities.

It is important to note that this project is funded by a bond sale, which is legally restricted to capital projects (buildings and infrastructure). Educational expenses—such as teacher salaries and instructional programs—are funded through the separate Educational Fund.



What is the timeline for this project?

- **May 2026:** Issuance of bonds.
- **July 2026:** Project bidding.
- **September 2026:** Groundbreaking.
- **August 2027:** Estimated completion.

Community Engagement

I have heard about a petition. How does this impact the process?

Because this project falls within the District's allowable bond capacity, it can be approved by the Board of Education. However, if a community member wishes for the decision to be made by the entire taxing body, a petition may be submitted to place the item on the November ballot. If a petition is received, the planning process will stop to await the election results. If the taxing body does not approve the funding, the project will not proceed.

Where can I ask questions or find more information?

We invite you to the public hearing on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at FJSHS**. Additionally, you are welcome to reach out to the Board of Education at fvsdboard@fvdistrict221.org or contact Superintendent Smith directly at ssmith@fvdistrict221.org.