# OME OF THE TANAGERS HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# VOTE

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### Thursday, September 20, 2018 | Noon – 8:00 p.m. District Library

#### PUBLIC HEARING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 7:00 P.M. HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL

**PROPOSITION #1** 

Purchase of land (See page 2 for details) Throughout the past year, the members of the Board of Education and district administration have been discussing two significant projects: 1) A land purchase proposition and 2) the purchase and installation of a generator. After careful consideration, the Board of Education approved a referendum to bring these propositions to the public for a vote.

On Thursday, September 20, the Hartford Central School District will conduct a special vote to seek residents' approval to purchase approximately 3.2 acres of vacant land, and a second resolution to authorize the district to purchase and install a 450 KW generator to power the Elementary School, Middle School, and High School.

PROPOSITION #2 Purchase of generator (See page 3 for details) This newsletter includes a great deal of information regarding the proposed resolutions. Over the past year, the members of the Board of Education have dedicated an incredible amount of time and energy exploring these propositions, and I am extremely proud of the work that has transpired. On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Education, I would like to thank the community of Hartford for their continued support for the district. If you have any questions regarding these proposals, please feel free to contact me at 518-632-5222.

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#### WHO CAN VOTE?

U.S. citizens, age 18 or older on election day, and residing in the Hartford Central School District for 30 days immediately prior to election. You do not need to be registered or own property to vote in this election.

#### **ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Absentee ballots are available to qualified voters. To obtain a ballot contact the District Clerk Joann Searles at (518) 632-5931 ext. 508.



#### **PROPOSITION #1**

The Hartford Central School District is seeking voter approval to purchase 3.2 acres of vacant land residing within the Town of Hartford. Specifically, the tax map parcel identification for this land is 132-1-27 and is outlined in red on the map below. The appraised value of the land is \$34,000.



#### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

Why does the district want to purchase the land? The Hartford Central School District is land-locked and has very limited options for any potential future land development. Purchasing this property would provide the district with the flexibility to expand or re-design in the future.

What would the district do with the land? At this time, the district does not have a final plan for using the land. However, undeveloped and available land adjacent to a school district is rare. By purchasing this property the district will have options for expansion or redevelopment in the future.

Will this purchase impact my school taxes? No. The district will not raise the tax levy in order to purchase the land. Nor will your taxes increase by this land coming off the property tax rolls. How much will the land purchase cost? A By law, the district can only pay up to the appraised value of the land, which is \$34,000. If approved, the actual purchase price will be slightly higher to encompass closing costs and attorney's fees.

How will the district pay for the purchase? The district will use funds that are part of the 2018-2019 budget to purchase the land. The funds used will not negatively impact students, staff or taxpayers.

If the district does not have to borrow money or raise taxes to purchase the land why is voter approval needed?

New York State Education law requires voter approval for any land purchase, regardless of the parcel size or cost.

#### **PROPOSITION #2**



The second proposition seeks approval for the district to purchase and install a 450 KW generator to power the Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. "Throughout my tenure as the Middle/High School Principal, and now as Superintendent, there have been several discussions regarding a potential generator purchase for the district," said Superintendent Cook. Through these discussions, Superintendent Cook and the members of the Board of Education have worked with the district's architects, CSArch, and Sage Electrical Engineering, in exploring potential generator options for the school district.

The proposition seeks approval for the district to potentially borrow \$300,000 to cover the purchase and installation costs. Superintendent Cook worked with the offices of Assemblywoman Woerner and Senator Little, to secure two state and municipal facilities funding grants that will cover the entire cost of the project. Superintendent Cook stated, "I am beyond thrilled to be able to propose a 'no cost' generator for the community of Hartford. Not only will this project allow the school to continue operating in a power outage, but we can further expand our capabilities as a Red Cross shelter in times of emergencies."

#### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

Where will the generator be located?

The generator will be installed near the underground oil and propane tanks along the fence line in the athletic fields. Specifically, directly across from the existing District Office's window.

Why this location?

A number of locations were considered. This specific location was selected based on cost, access to the electrical panels, cosmetics, and potential future land usage.

Why isn't the district proposing a generator for the entire facility?

The district explored this option. However, based on cost, usage, and the electrical connections in the alternative energy plant and technology buildings, it was recommended to only tie-in the main building.

Will the generator allow the school to remain in session and operate during a power outage?

Yes, but depending on the circumstances. Student safety is the district's first priority. Although the building may have power, due to other safety concerns, it still may be safer to send the students home.

Will this purchase impact my school taxes?

No. The district has secured two state and municipal facilities grants to cover the cost of the project.



#### **Administration**

Andrew Cook, Superintendent Brian George, Middle/High School Principal Bethellen Mannix, Elementary Principal

#### **Board of Education**

Brian Getty, President Janine Thomas, Vice-President Adam Fish Philip Jessen Ron Smith

### \*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\* POSTAL CUSTOMER

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### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Thursday, September 13 7:00 P.M. Hartford Central School District

## VOTE

Thursday, September 20 Noon District Library





SOCCER UNDER THE LIGHTS vs. Salem Friday, September 28 7:00 P.M.

