

\$44.3 million could go to city schools

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Negotiations last fall between city and school officials resulted in a pared-down list limited to just the projects needed to comply with building codes and ensure the safety of students and staff.

Other projects — such as purchasing school fire alarms, installing new public address systems and removing underground oil tanks — would also be funded if the bond ordinance passes. The public is invited to comment Wednesday during the council's 6 p.m. meeting at City Hall, 295 Grove St.

The ordinances authorizing bonding were finally introduced in December, but were then put on the back burner.

"This means that we will be able to move ahead to finish some projects that had been started, and get new things under way," Superintendent of Schools Frank Sinatra said. "I did not expect that it was going to take this long."

Projects that did not make it onto the prioritized list of projects include a \$12.7 million renovation of Lincoln High School, a \$1 million annex for School 20 and major renovations at Schools 16, 32, 30 and 38.

Michael Cook, Schundler's chief of staff, estimated the bond issue will increase the municipal tax rate between 10 and 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Although the administration has signed off on the bonds, Cook

put in a plug for the mayor's school voucher proposal, saying the system would not need so many new schools if a voucher program was in place.

The largest chunk of the bond issue — \$29.2 million — will pay for the almost completed construction at School 17 on Bergen Avenue.

But the bond issue comes a little too late for Academic High School.

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools has told the district that Academic High School will lose its accreditation unless it finds a new home by the 1996-97 school year.

Officials, who do not have time to build a new school, are considering moving Academic students to School 32, which would require \$11 million to \$12 million in renovations.

The bond ordinance would provide money for site location. Finding funds for construction is a battle that will be fought later, Sinatra said.

But once the land is purchased, Sinatra said he believes the city has a "moral obligation" to complete the process.

Council President Thomas DeGise agrees.

"By doing this, we are committing to building two new schools. It would be stupid to buy the land and not build the school," he said.



File photo



Journal photo by Suzanne Plunkett

Democratic challenger Charlotte Haley Mizzi, right photo, unveils her ad campaign against County Executive Robert Janiszewski, left photo, during a news conference at her Jersey City campaign headquarters.

Personal attack in county exec race

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Mizzi's running mates for state Assembly and her candidate for sheriff were disqualified for not having sufficient signatures.

"It's incredible how low they can sink," spokesman Paul Swibinski said. "The voters of Hudson County will recognize this for what it is."

Talk of the alleged incident has circulated in political circles for several years. The Jersey Journal has found nothing to substantiate the reports.

Janiszewski is seeking his third term as county executive. The Democratic primary is June 6.

Haley Mizzi's video ads also attack county spending, patronage practices and bond deals.

"The whole thing is a complete and absolute lie," Swibinski said.

Haley Mizzi said she was basing her allegation about the arrest largely on an article published in a weekly paper, the Jersey Voice, in June 1993.

Asked whether she had any other documents or evidence, Haley Mizzi replied, "You should talk to Janiszewski and ask him, not me."

She said she was "doing the job of a good citizen" by raising the allegations and that moral leadership should be an issue in the campaign. She said she would ask the state attorney general to investigate what she claims is a police cover-up. Sources said the police offi-

cer named in the article that Haley Mizzi cited has denied ever arresting Janiszewski.

Haley Mizzi's Washington-based campaign consultant, Michael Copperthite, said he spoke to the officer before the commercial was made and was confident it is accurate.

Police Director Michael Moriarty's office spokesman said no police report of the alleged incident has been found and, as far as is known, doesn't exist.

Haley Mizzi claimed the report "was squashed" and that the incident "is a known fact among a lot of people."

In denying the allegations, the Janiszewski campaign claimed they originated with

Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler. Haley Mizzi is the Jersey City rent leveling administrator and served briefly as Schundler's deputy mayor. Copperthite ran Schundler's 1991 campaign for state senate.

"Charlotte Haley Mizzi is Bret Schundler's mouthpiece," Swibinski said.

He said Haley Mizzi entered the Democratic primary to try to help Jersey City Deputy Mayor William Macchi's campaign in the November general election against Janiszewski. Macchi is seeking the Republican nomination in the June primary.

"We categorically deny any involvement," said Tom Gallagher, a spokesman for Schundler.

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