

# Unatego Embarks on Energy Performance Contract (EPC)

As part of our ongoing effort to provide updates to our aging infrastructure and to reduce our carbon footprint, the District has agreed to have energy work done that is guaranteed to pay for itself over a period of time. This project, in conjunction with the ongoing Capital Project, will provide energy savings that will pay for the improvements over a period of 18 years and will require no local contribution from taxpayers.

The scope of the EPC includes work at the Jr-Sr High School consisting of LED lighting, high efficiency propane boilers, digital HVAC controls, and building envelope improvements resulting in approximately \$159,000 annual savings (without building aid) and an 18-year payback period. With state building aid, the District will see a surplus amounting to \$124,226 per year and a simple payback period of 7.5 years.

This project dramatically reduces our dependency on fossil fuels. The EPC will save 179 Metric Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> based on electric emissions and 372 Metric Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> based fossil fuel emissions. This is equivalent to removing 143 cars from the road each year. This carbon reduction is equivalent to installing 4.55 acres of solar panels. Energy efficiency is not only good for the environment but saves the district money and acts a hedge against volatile future energy costs.

Although the Board of Education has determined that this project makes sense without additional aid, they have decided to ask for voter approval which if given, will result in an additional 10% in state aid and provide even more savings to district taxpayers.

On May 17, 2023, in addition to electing board members and voting on the District budget, there will be referendum on the ballot asking voters to approve the EPC, thereby generating an additional 10% in building aid. For additional information, please contact the Unatego District Office at 607-988-5038 or go to the district website, [www.unatego.org](http://www.unatego.org) and click on the 2021 Capital Project tab.